

PE1804/A

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar submission of 5 June 2020

I refer to this Petition which was lodged with the Committee on 6 May 2020, and wish, also on behalf of the Uist Association of Community Councils, to record the concerns of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as Local Authority firstly, that Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) is continuing with implementation of its Air Traffic Management Strategy despite stating publicly that HIAL intends to commission an Islands Impact Assessment and, secondly, that HIAL continues to implement the Strategy while this Petition is yet to be considered by the Public Petitions Committee. You will be aware that HIAL's intentions and processes in taking forward this Strategy were the subject of criticism in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament in late January this year.

This action by HIAL indicates to the Comhairle, its local Elected Members and the Uist Association of Community Councils that HIAL's commitment to implementation of the Islands Impact Assessment or, indeed, a future decision of the Public Petitions Committee, is questionable.

It is appreciated that the Coronavirus Pandemic is limiting the work of the Committee but in these circumstances, wherein the body complained of in the Petition is seeking to pursue its original intention without, it would seem, regard for the processes which are currently in place, even those initiated by itself, the Comhairle requests the Committee to give the Petition as urgent consideration as it can.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would be happy to give oral evidence on the Petition to the Committee.