

Minutes of the Air Policy Group Meeting - 03, September 2019

Minutes of the Air Policy Group Meeting held at The St Giles Heathrow Hotel, Hounslow Rd; Feltham, TW14 9AD. The Meeting was held on the 03/09/2019 commencing at 10.00 hours.

Agenda item 1, Competition Statement

BIFA's Competition Statement as detailed on the Agenda was read out by the Chair at the start of the meeting.

Agenda item 2, Agree Minutes of the meeting of the 22 May 2019

These were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Vice Chair.

Agenda item 3, Matters arising from the meeting of 22 May 2019

The only action arising from the meeting on the 22 May 2019, was for the BIFA Secretariat to invite Consultants to provide an update on the Truck Call Forward Project. See Agenda item 4.

Agenda item 4, Presentation by HAL: Heathrow Call Forward Project

Two consultants attended and gave a presentation about the latest developments with the Call Forward project. The presentation generated some good discussion about the proposed scheme and one member asked whether there could be a possibility of a 'Fast Track' for regular users of the cargo horseshoe to avoid them getting caught up in queues.

The structure of the HAL team was also discussed, and members stressed that the role of "Head of Cargo" is an important role and when the current Head of Cargo leaves in October, it is important that a suitable replacement is put in place ASAP. A copy of the presentation was provided to members of the Air PG, with these minutes.

Agenda item 5, HMRC Inland Pre-Clearance Operation

The meeting was given a presentation about the HMRC anti-fraud operation. A copy of the presentation was provided to members of the Air PG with these minutes.

Agenda item 6, ASM Update – Customs & CDS

ASM were unable to attend the meeting and sent apologies.

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- The meeting was advised that the migration schedule from CHIEF to CDS has been established, with last declarations being made in CHIEF during September 2020 and CHIEF shutdown at the end of March 2021.
- Further information about CDS was provided by the AFSS, who advised that technical issues still exist, including problems with the tariff download and training environment. A working group has been set up to address the issues.
- It is currently intended that the top forwarders by volume will have a managed migration to CDS during the first quarter of 2020. A member of the BIFA secretariat pointed out that even though the CDS system could be ready, there will still be time needed to integrate systems!
- In relation to a 'No Deal' Brexit, the meeting heard that traders will be issued EORI numbers automatically and discussed the easements for Brexit, including TSP and how it will be used in inventory linked locations.
- Members were also advised that the UK will still be signatories to the Common Transit Convention and that transit is likely to be used extensively. This could have impacts on guarantees and members were reminded about the importance of 'knowing their customer'.

Agenda item 7, Brexit Aviation - update

An update on the possible effects of a No Deal Brexit on Aviation was provided by the Secretariat and a copy of the update was distributed with the minutes

Agenda item 8, Regional Consultant Reports

London West & the South West

Heathrow

- Heathrow Strikes: Three 48-hour strikes were planned by Heathrow staff including security staff and engineers, during July and August. Members were kept informed and all actions were suspended at a late stage.
- BA Pilot strikes are now planned for 9, 10 & 27, Sep
- Heathrow Expansion - the Expansion Consultation continues until 13, Sep - it is recommended that members take the opportunity to review and give feedback
- CCS-UK user Group: Around 100 representatives of the airfreight community attended to see a demonstration of the Advance Information System (AIS). Feedback was generally positive, and it was concluded that this could be beneficial if enough forwarders, Hauliers and Transit Sheds sign up and use it.
- Border Force confirmed that the pilot of deliveries to Multiple ETSF's from one ITSF has been approved and an agreement between the parties has been signed. Members were reminded that the ETSF remains liable for goods whilst in transit from the ITSF and are expected to sign a liability agreement.
- Poyle Estate- The latest meeting was held on 2, Sep and following topics were among those discussed:
 - Proposed set up of a local communication platform
 - Code of conduct for drivers

- More community engagement - (21, Sep “clean up Colnbrook”)
- Impact assessment for Junction 14
- Better signage to prevent unnecessary HGV journeys
- Bus Gate likely to go ahead towards end of year under “experimental traffic order” which means it can be flexible whilst operating.
- Next meeting Nov 15th.

Gatwick

- Following the acquisition of Air & Cargo by Ligentia and the closure of their LGW office, Transvalair are now the hosts of our meetings.
- Timberham House is closing on 30, June 2020. Awaiting details of where government agencies will be based after the closure.
- GAL update: The Gatwick Master Plan was explained, and GAL are looking to increase aircraft movements on the main runway by gradually moving to a time based, rather than distance-based approach.
Also, the agreement that prevented the 2nd runway (Northern) from being used for aircraft movements has expired and they are now looking at options to use it. Further public consultation and environmental assessment is required.

Stansted

- ATA Carnets are not cleared at the counter, they are cleared by the NCH. BF Stansted advised that access to CHIEF is now widely available and they could clear the inventory if given authority to release locally. BIFA/ASM agreed to find out who owns the policy and raise at relevant JCCC sub-group.
- MAG/London Stansted Airport report that FY19 tonnage was up by 5% on previous year. Although some perishable flights have been lost to other airports.
- FY20 has had a steady start and strategy is to focus on organic growth of existing operators and some potential new carriers.

Other:

- National Clearance Hub:
Awaiting latest report but we have not been made aware of any processing issues.
- ITDLO's:
The International Trade Development Liaison Network has been re-established by HMRC to support trade. They will be available to attend events or regional meetings and help by delivering updates on subjects such as CDS, AEO, UCC, Special Procedures and EU Exit.

Scotland

The Regional Consultant for Scotland & the borders was unable to attend and sent apologies.

Manchester

No recent meetings & nothing to report

Agenda item 9, Aviation Security Update

An update was provided on subjects including the Known Consignor validation process, CCTV coverage of screening and the use of FREDDS Dogs.

Agenda item 10, AOB & Date of next meeting

- The BIFA Freight Service Awards 2019 - Call for Entries still open until the 8th October 2019
- IATA-FIATA Air Cargo Program - IFACP - There have been ongoing discussions between the Airline and Forwarder members of the IFGB (IATA FIATA Governance Board) regarding the Forwarders Agreement. There are still issues that need to be settled, regarding the liability on Direct AWB shipment, to avoid ambiguities.
- Late Remittance - A working group was established by the EACPJC (European Air Cargo Program - Joint Council) to look at the issue of Late Remittance. The Airline members of the working group proposed five methods to address the root causes of the late remittance and the forwarder members agreed to consider each of the options. One of the proposed options was for National Forwarder Associations to promote the use of Direct Debit to improve on time payment. A letter to convey this is being drafted

The next meeting will be held on the **27th November 2019** at Redfern House, Feltham.