

COPY LETTER.

Your Ref:- **TWM/BMF.**  
Our Ref:→ **B/AS/M/IM.**

Town Clerk's Chambers,  
14, High Street,  
DORNOCH,

18th. September, 1952.

Dear Sirs,

DORNOCH AIRFIELD.

Your **Managing Director's** letter dated 14th. August, last, addressed to The **Manager, Dornoch Hotel**, has been handed to me by the **Provost**.

I cannot give you the lengths of the runways, but I do know that, during the last war 4-engined Aircraft operated here. Definitely there is a North-South runway and, since the prevailing wind is Westerly, I believe there would be an East-West runway.

These grass runways are on very dry, sandy soil whereon the ordinary twin-engined passenger aircraft could operate with ease. I suspect, owing to the absence of a Firetender, Ambulance and Crash Crew, that the Airstrip is unlicensed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Yours truly,

Town Clerk.

Morton Air Services Limited,  
Airport of London,  
CROYDEN,  
Surrey.

COPY LETTER.

Morton Air Services Limited,  
Airport of London,  
CROYDEN,  
Surrey.

14th. August, 1952.

Dear Sir,

We understand you have prepared an aircraft landing strip, which can be used by aircraft bringing clients to your Hotel.

We would be most grateful if you would let us have particulars of this landing ground, including length of runway, whether hard or grass, and its direction. Would you, at the same time, also let us know if the landing strip is licensed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Yours faithfully,  
MORTON AIR SERVICES LTD.  
(Sgd) T. W. MORTON.

Captain T. W. Morton,  
Managing Director.

The Manager,  
Dornoch Hotel,  
DORNOCH,  
Sutherland,  
Scotland.



ROYAL BURG H OF DORNOCH  
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REPORT by the Town Clerk anent  
obligations devolving upon the  
Town Council if the Landing Ground  
is to be used for public purposes.  
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At present the dite is unlicenced and used by the Highland Airways Ltd., and passengers are occasionally conveyed to and from Dornoch by them.

While the boundaries of the site are not marked off a wind indicator is erected. The Air Ministry stipulate that the wind indicator be erected on one of the boundaries, but as the boundaries are not marked off, serious damage might be caused to a stranger landing in the rough ground to the west of the site. If such accident did occur the Local Authority would of course be liable for damages.

The licencing of the site can only be considered as a temporary expedient until a complete survey is carried out by an approved aviation consultant. Flight Lieut. Caldwell of the S. M. T. Co., carried out a survey in 1933, but he is not an approved aviation consultant as his name does not appear on the List of Consultants issued by the Air Ministry. A temporary licence was however granted to the S. M. T. Co., on the report then given.

In order to safeguard the Local Authority against any possible claims in connection with the maintenance and management of the site, I would recommend as follows:-

- (1) That the Highland Airways Ltd., be asked to obtain

a/



a temporary licence themselves.

- (2) That the site be distinctly <sup>defined</sup> ~~marked off~~ by having marks on the ground at intervals so that the location of the site could be easily seen from the air.
- (3) That the wind indicator be erected on one of the boundaries.

If the Local Authority are not disposed to fall in with the foregoing recommendations, their only alternative is to obtain a licence in their own name. As this would necessitate considerable expense I am not prepared to recommend this course in the meantime.

Prior to the granting of a licence to any Local Authority the following Air Ministry requirements would have to be observed, viz:-

- (1) A report on the suitability of the site by an approved Air Ministry Consultant would have to be obtained.
- (2) The provision of the minimum medical requirements for permanent civil aerodromes as specified in Schedule No.2. - 266211/33 issued by the Air Ministry.
- (3) The provision of the minimum "Crash" equipment for civil land aerodromes (permanent & temporary) as specified in Schedule No.4.-270084/33/C.A.4.



## COUNTY AIR SERVICE

The establishment of an air service to meet the needs of the people of Sutherland is a matter of urgent importance. Excellent facilities are available on the Dornoch Links and the Town Council have for some time been giving the project serious consideration.

At a public meeting held in the Council Chamber, Dornoch, on 4th September 1947, full support was pledged towards the establishment of an air service to Dornoch.

During the war years the Air Ministry constructed the airstrips and nearly every type of 'plane landed and took off without mishap including Lancasters. The ground is free from every obstruction and fog or mist is rarely experienced.

The claims of Dornoch have been put before the Scottish Advisory Council on Aviation and the possibilities were sympathetically considered by that body. The Postmaster General has also indicated that he would be prepared to consider the delivery of mails whenever a regular service was inaugurated.

The needs of the medical services of the County demand such a service and this point was particularly emphasised at the public meeting referred to above. Recently a patient had to be taken south from Dornoch by air for specialist attention with the result that a 'plane had to be specially chartered from Renfrew for this purpose.

Last, but not least, the Council have been constantly striving to develop the tourist traffic to Dornoch and they feel that with the kindly co-operation of the local Hotels, and particularly the Dornoch Hotel, every effort should be made in this direction. It has already been decided to approach the Scottish Tourist Board in this connection. The Magistrates would accordingly appreciate very much any help or advice your Lordship may be able to give in regard to the establishment of an air service and the development of the tourist traffic.



THE HOTELS EXECUTIVE  
BRITISH TRANSPORT

LORD INMAN, P.C., J.P.

Chairman

Telephone

EUSton 6572

CHAIRMAN'S ROOM,

EUSTON STATION,

LONDON, N.W. 1.

22nd September 1948

W. Skinner Esq.,  
Town Clerk,  
Dornoch,  
Sutherland

Dear Mr. Skinner,

This is just a formal note to say that I received your letter of September 13th before leaving Dornoch and I propose to take up the matter of the establishment of an air service with the appropriate authorities at an early date.

It was a great pleasure to meet the Provost, Bailie Munro and Councillor Macleod, and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

*Inman.*



Lord Inman,  
Dornoch Hotel,  
Dornoch.

13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1948

My Lord,

On behalf of the Provost, Bailie Munro, and Councillor MacLeod I thank your Lordship for so kindly meeting them in the Dornoch Hotel on 8th instant, for the purpose of discussing the possibility of establishing an air service to Dornoch and the consequent development of the tourist traffic. Your Lordship's kind gesture has been highly appreciated.

As your Lordship is aware the Town Council have, for some ~~time~~ considerable time, being diligently pursuing the idea of securing an air service to Dornoch, and I would take this opportunity of again recapitulating the undernoted aspects of the subject Viz:-

1. The establishment of an air service to Dornoch would undoubtedly prove of great benefit to visitors and the inhabitants of the County of Sutherland alike. At present the long and tedious journey by road and rail to this rather remote part of the Highlands will not in any ~~great~~ <sup>way</sup> ~~measure~~ help to increase the number of visitors.
2. Dornoch is in the fortunate position of having an excellent Landing Ground situated on the lower links. It is absolutely free from obstruction and fog or mist is rarely experienced. In short the landing facilities are all that could be desired.
3. A service covering the period from say April to October would be appreciated by the Council and this would satisfy the needs of all concerned in the meantime.
4. Prior to the war the late Lord Rothermere brought newspapers and mail by air to Dornoch and the Inverness/Orkney planes frequently touched down for and with passengers, but unfortunately these services no longer exist.
5. The Town Council have been assured that the delivery of mail would be carefully considered by the Postmaster General whenever a regular air service was established.

I am instructed to state that with the kindly co-operation and support of the local hotel proprietors and the community in general, the efforts now being made to secure an air service may prove fruitful.

The courtesy and <sup>at</sup> attention given by your Lordship to the views expressed by the members of the Council made them feel that your Lordship is deeply interested in the subject. They would accordingly be most grateful for any help your Lordship may be able to give in order to advance the prosperity and popularity of Dornoch <sup>as a health resort.</sup>

*If your Lordship would kindly approach the Air Ministry on the subject in the hope that something might be done in the way of subsidising, securing an air service to Dornoch.* I have the honour to be

Your Lordships,

Most obedient servant.

Town Clerk.



BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CIVIL AVIATION.

Telegrams BEALINE, Air Ambulance, Renfrew

Telephone Renfrew 2231 (6 lines)

SCOTTISH DIVISION  
AIRPORT FOR GLASGOW  
RENFREW

3

16th February, 1948.

IRL/198.

Town Clerk,  
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

New Routes and Services.

I refer to my letter of 6th October last.

I am to state that in the present general economic circumstances and after considering information before it at a meeting on 14th inst., the Scottish Advisory Council for Civil Aviation has now decided, with regret, to defer consideration of an air service in your area until the financial situation has improved.

It is felt that any estimate made now of potential traffic will probably have to be completely revised when the time comes for reviewing the matter and that accordingly further action in supplying detailed information required in the B.E.A. "questionnaire" should also, in the meantime be deferred.

Yours faithfully,



I.R. Liddell,  
Secy. Scottish Advisory Council for  
Civil Aviation.

MB.





COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND AIR SERVICE.

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A public meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Dornoch, on Thursday evening, 4th instant. Provost Macdonald presided.

After extending a cordial welcome to all those present the Provost stated that the object of calling the meeting was to ascertain the views and solicit the support of the general public in the efforts now being made to secure an air service for the County of Sutherland.

Various members of the County Council and Town Council expressed their wholehearted support of the project and urged that every effort be now made to secure, at least, a link up with the existing Inverness/Orkney service.

The urgent need, and the great advantages which would be derived from such a mode of transport for Health Service purposes, was particularly emphasised by Mr. B.S. Simpson, Surgeon, Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie.

After all aspects of the required service were fully discussed, the Provost moved and Mr. George Grant, Craigneath, Golspie, seconded, and it was thereafter unanimously agreed, that the following resolution be sent to the Scottish Advisory Committee, viz:-

"This meeting representative of various districts in  
"Sutherland rejoices to learn that there are prospects of  
"the aircraft landing ground at Dornoch being used in the  
"Northern Air Service, and pledge their utmost support  
"to such a service being established in the County. The  
"meeting also undertake to use the service for travel on  
"every possible occasion, and is confident that the demands  
"on an air service in the area will more than justify its  
"existence".

Dornoch, 5th September 1947.



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"existence".

*Dornoch 5th Sept 1947*



16th September 47

W. Skinner.

Sir Patrick Dollan,  
70, Robertson Street,  
Glasgow.

Dear Sir Patrick,

I am taking the liberty of sending you herewith a short report of a public meeting held at Dornoch on 4th instant in connection with our efforts to obtain an air service for Sutherland. You will observe that the resolution at the end of the report conveys the enthusiasm of the general public in the matter, and I feel confident that an air service to Dornoch would certainly be a great asset to the County.

I thank you personally for the deep interest you are taking in the development of air travel and I trust that our needs will receive your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Provost.

Encls/-



BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS (Scottish Division).

Telegrams: BEALINE Inverness.

Telephone: Inverness 720/1.

STROTHERS LANE,

ACADEMY STREET,

INVERNESS.

Ref. S/EEF. 1233

25th July, 1947.

W. Skinner, Esq.,  
Town Clerk,  
DORNOCH.

Dear Mr. Skinner,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd July. I will be pleased to visit Dornoch and meet the magistrates regarding the development of Dornoch landing ground. I have no private aircraft available at the moment, and so I shall be dependent on the service aircraft. I could leave here at 11.45 a.m. arriving at Dornoch approximately 12.05 p.m., and I would have to leave again at 2.45 p.m. If you will state a date during the early part of next week, I will do my best to keep the appointment. I must, however, warn you that I might be called to Renfrew suddenly, in which case I would 'phone you at your office advising you of my inability to keep the appointment, and asking for a new date. I trust, however, this will not occur.

Yours sincerely,

.....  
E.E. Fresson  
Manager, North of Scotland Area.

HMM.





BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS (Scottish Division).

Telegrams BEALINE Inverness.

Telephone Inverness 720/1.

Strothers Lane,

Academy Street,

INVERNESS.

Ref. S/EEF.759 (I/1).

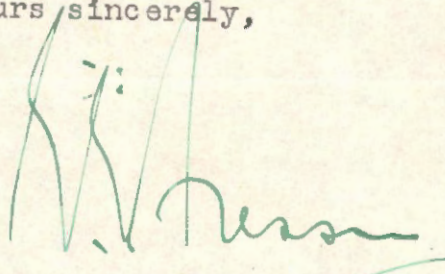
7th May, 1947.

W. Skinner, Esq.,  
The Town Clerk,  
DORNOCH.

Dear Mr. Skinner,

As promised I have done my best to get you an air service for this summer by putting in full recommendations to Headquarters. They have, however, turned down the request.

Yours sincerely,



.....  
E.E. Fresson.

HMM.





*Should accept  
how well this is*

COUNTY <sup>air service</sup>  
~~AIRPORT~~  
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The establishment of an air service to meet the needs of the people of Sutherland is a matter of urgent importance. Excellent facilities are available on the Dornoch Links and the Town Council have for some time been giving the matter serious consideration.

In order to ascertain the views, and solicit the support of the general public in the efforts now being made, a public meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, on <sup>Monday</sup> *Thursday, 4th Sept 1947 @ 6.30 p.m.* when the whole project will be fully discussed.

All interested are cordially invited to attend.

J. G. Macdonald, Provost.

Dornoch, <sup>th</sup> August 1947.



TELEGRAMS:  
SCOTAIRWAY, INVERNESS



TELEPHONE:  
INVERNESS 720

## SCOTTISH AIRWAYS LIMITED

DIRECTORS:

SIR STEVEN BILSLAND, BT., M.C., D.L. (CHAIRMAN)  
T. L. ADAM E. E. FRESSON, O.B.E. H. T. LEITH  
G. NICHOLSON J. W. RATLEDGE C. H. SUTHERLAND  
MAJOR MALCOLM S. SPEIR, M.C. W. YEAMAN  
WING COMMANDER A. H. MEASURES,  
C.B.E., M.I.MECH.E. (MANAGING)

STRUTHERS LANE

8EF/HMM/J/12. ACADEMY STREET

INVERNESS

11th October, 1946.

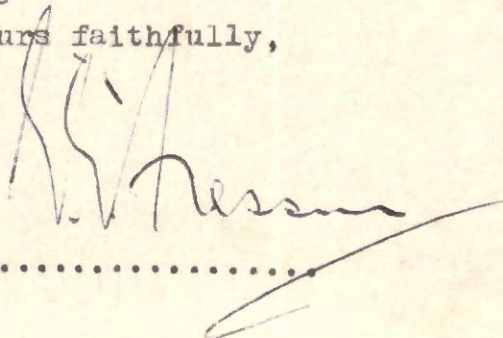
W. Skinner, Esq.,  
Town Clerk,  
DORNOCH.

Dear Mr. Skinner,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th of October on the subject of Dornoch landing ground. I have not forgotten Dornoch's requirements, but I am handicapped at the moment with lack of everything which goes to make an air service. Nationalisation has not made matters easier for us, but, if anything, has brought its attending difficulties.

It is quite impossible to lay on a service this winter, but I hope to be able to recommend the inclusion of Dornoch when our Summer Time Table appears next year. In the meantime, would you give me some indication as to what sort of Time Table would suit Dornoch, and whether in your opinion there would be any demand for a service which would enable the Dornoch people to get into Inverness for the day and return the same evening.

Yours faithfully,

*Baird*  
  
.....



W. Skinner

22nd Novr.

46.

Captain E. E. Fressen, O. B. E.,  
Scottish Airways Limited,  
Struthers Lane,  
Academy Street,  
Inverness.

Dear Captain Fressen,

I have now had an opportunity of placing your letter of 11th ulto., before a recent meeting of the Town Council.

The general opinion is that our service should form an intergral part of the Inverness, Wick and Orkney service and that one plane should touch down at Dornoch with mails and newspapers on the way north.

It is felt that there will certainly be a demand for a passenger service and consequently the arrangement of a timetable had better be left in your own capable hands. It has been suggested, however, that one of the planes returning from Wick might land at Dornoch for the purpose of conveying passengers to Inverness.

The Postmaster General has already indicated that on the establishment of an air service to Dornoch he would then consider the question of an air mail service.

Yours sincerely,

Town-Clerk.