

Proposed Air Taxi Service

Notes made from a telephone conversation with Mr Smart on 10th May and at a meeting with Mr Smart and representatives of Dornoch Town Council on 11th May.

1. Mr Smart, who works at Dounreay, is secretary of the Caithness Flying Club and he plans to start an air charter service based at Wick.

2. He proposes buying a <sup>NEW BEARLE "AERONILE SINGLE"</sup> ~~Piper "Apache", Twin Engined Aircraft~~, which has been ~~reconditioned after 300 hours flying, for a price of £12,000.~~ <sup>16000</sup>

3. The plane takes <sup>3</sup> ~~five~~ passengers, it would be flown by a full time commercial pilot and the charge would be ~~£12~~ per hour flying time for the plane.

On this basis a single journey to Edinburgh would cost ~~£12~~ for <sup>2</sup> ~~five~~ passengers (i.e. £4 per head).

4. The establishment of an aerodrome at Dornoch would require conformation to publication, CAP 163 (the County Development Officer has a copy).

For the type of service proposed, which is V.F.R. (Visual Flight Rule) only a wind sock would be necessary at Dornoch. Equipment would be required for fire fighting, which could be a lorry with a water tank and foam extinguisher. Three men would be necessary when a plane lands or takes off, one of whom must be trained in First Aid.

5. A fee of 30/- per charter plane landing can be levied and 12/- landing fee for private aircraft.

6. Mr Smart considers Dornoch an excellent centre for the Highlands and a satisfactory airstrip can easily be made (he landed there on the evening of his meeting).

7. In due course a hangar for private aircraft would be useful.

8. A telephone service would be required from the town to the field and, although not essential, a radio contact with incoming planes would be useful (would this be possible through Civil Defence or Police?)

9. There would be the prospect of holding a flying club rally at Dornoch in 1964 which would give first class publicity.

10. Communications for aircraft landings would be via Inverness airport. A flight plan would be made out by the pilot before leaving an area and telephoned to Inverness who would then telephone Dornoch.

11. Dundee have just set up an aerodrome and could probably give Dornoch advice.

Mr G. Stanley, Commandant at Dalcross, would probably make the inspection to pass the Dornoch airstrip as satisfactory.

Mr Smart thought that the fence at the west end of the airstrip constituted a hazard and would have to be changed.

12. He is seeking finance for his project; he requires £15,000 to get started and when interviewed he said that he had good hopes of commencing the charter service in July, 1963.

Development Department,  
Dornoch.  
June, 1963.

D. R. Fasham  
County Development Officer

Note: The details of capital required, and the cost of the plane, are NOT TO BE PUBLISHED