

PRESS RELEASE

SCDI Response to Competition Commission Inquiry into BAA Airports

17 December 2008

Reacting to the Competition Commission's provisional decision on BAA, Iain Duff, Chief Economist at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, said:

"SCDI did not consider that a lack of competition is holding back the main Scottish airports. However, the Competition Commission has made its views known, and our concern is that whoever takes over Edinburgh Airport maintains or exceeds BAA's strong plans for investment and growth. Improving Scotland's connectivity with the rest of the UK and internationally is essential to boosting Scotland's competitiveness.

"Hanging a 'for sale' sign above our capital's airport at this difficult time for the economy and on the eve of the Year of Homecoming is not the best advert for Scotland in attracting overseas visitors and investment. "Increased regulation at Aberdeen should mean lower prices, but this can't come at the expense of long term expansion of the North East's airport."

ENDS

For further comment or information please contact Niall Stuart on 07814 167477