

30 November 2007
Ref 8AP/26/00/8

Dear

Proposal to replace early morning Local Area Forecasts at Scatsta Airport with a TAF

Following my consultation letter issued on 7th August 2007 "Letter of Consultation on proposed use of AUTO METARs for the production of TAFs and LAFs in the UK". I am writing to you with more detailed proposals and timescales for implementing this change.

Following the consultation on this issue there were a number of favourable comments on the replacement of early morning LAFs with TAFs. BHAB agreed with the proposal and see it as a welcome improvement to the level of meteorological information available to crews that conduct early morning departures to destinations in the East Shetland Basin, the Irish Sea, East of Shetland and in the Southern North Sea.

As you may be aware following the implementation of Amendment 74 to ICAO Annex 3 on the 7th November 2007 it is now permissible to issue a TAF based on AUTO METARs when issued at an airport that is non operational.

Issuing a TAF rather than a LAF has a number of benefits since it will be available to all the operators using the aerodrome as it will be distributed via the AFTN and will be kept under constant review by the forecaster and amended when necessary. To align with other changes to the TAF format that will be introduced next year, production of LAFs will cease on 5th November 2008. Instead of the LAF an early morning TAF valid 03-12 would be issued at around 0200.

In order to issue AUTO METARs that are compliant with CAP 746 Meteorological Observations at Aerodromes and therefore meet ICAO standards, the following parameters are required to be issued every 30 minutes i.e. at 20 and 50 minutes past each hour when the aerodrome is non operational:

- wind speed and direction
- visibility
- cloud amount and height
- temperature and dew point
- pressure and
- present weather

I note that from the latest Met Liaison Report for Scatsta (28th March 2007) that you currently do not have a visiometer or present weather sensor, these will be required to be installed before 5th November 2008 in order for a TAF to be issued. There are a number of systems that are available on the market and I can provide more information on these if required.

If you have any comments or queries in the mean time please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have copied this letter to the Bristow Helicopters representative at Scatsta.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch H', is positioned above the typed name.

Colin Hord
UK Meteorological Authority