



UK Airport Consultative Committees - Liaison Group

From Paula Street - Secretariat
County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ
Telephone: +44 1243 777409
E-mail: paula.street@gatcom.org.uk Web: www.ukaccs.info

Ms. N. Tompkinson
Director Transport Security and Contingencies
Department for Transport
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DR

24th November, 2008

Dear Ms. Tompkinson,

Airport Airside Passes: Criminal Record Checks – Foreign Nationals

At the Annual Meeting of our Liaison Group, a number of airport consultative committee representatives highlighted the difficulties their airports were having in obtaining correct and complete criminal history checks from abroad for foreign nationals. It appears that these checks were eventually being returned as clear when in practice this was not always the case and that there was a potential for a foreign national with an unspent conviction for an offence on the DfT's disqualifying list to have access to restricted areas of the airport.

We acknowledge that the criminal record check is only part of the overall security screening process at airports and that each layer of security underpins and reinforces the next layer and that higher levels of vetting is undertaken for those persons discharging aviation security responsibilities. However our members were nonetheless concerned that there is a disparity between UK and foreign nationals applicants in that British citizens undergo a more stringent vetting process. I have therefore been asked to establish what action the Government is taking to address this disparity and whether the current arrangements are to be reviewed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Street

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