

2.14 Deputy K.C. Lewis of the Assistant Minister for Economic Development regarding the safety of Q400/Dash 8 aircraft flying into Jersey on a daily basis:

Following the grounding by Scandinavian Airlines (S.A.S) of its entire fleet of Q400 Dash 8 aircraft is the Minister satisfied that no safety issues arise from these aircraft flying into Jersey on a daily basis?

Deputy A.J.H. Maclean (Assistant Minister for Economic Development):

I am completely satisfied that there are no safety issues with the Q400 Dash 8 aircraft operated locally by Flybe. Indeed, despite being a somewhat nervous flyer myself I was confident enough to travel on one of these aircraft only last week and indeed will continue to do so.

2.14.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

There were 3 recent incidents involving this aircraft at Vilnius Lithuania and Aalborg Denmark? Is the Minister satisfied with a safety record of these aircraft and that of the BAE146 aircraft which at times, allegedly, had fuel fumes leaking into the cockpit and cabin?

Deputy A.J.H. Maclean:

I am satisfied, but more importantly the C.A.A. (Civil Aviation Authority) who are the safety regulator, are satisfied. They have investigated thoroughly the incidents and if there were any concerns whatsoever they would be the first to be looking to withdraw the certificate of airworthiness for the aircraft in question. I do have copies of preliminary investigation into the accidents that occurred with S.A.S. and I am more than happy to let the Deputy have copies of these. That might give him some degree of confidence. The reports do indicate that the issues that arose with S.A.S. were to do with maintenance issues and failures with regard to the maintenance programme that was carried out by that particular airline. With regard to the second part of the question, the Deputy asked about the BAE146s which are also operated by Flybe. There have been some reported incidents. Again, the C.A.A. have looked at this matter and they are satisfied to this date that there is not an issue that needs to be answered but we are continuing to monitor the situation. Safety is, of course, of absolute, paramount importance.