

Airport security queue delays must be resolved

TravelWatch is extremely concerned at the unacceptable level of delays through Security at the airport during those occasions when several flights are departing within a tight timeframe, and representations have been made to the Airport and the Minister.

TravelWatch welcomes the review being undertaken (as discussed at a recent Tynwald), and we note the options of enlarging the search area, automatic tray returns and boarding card reader machines, but we strongly believe that these options will not solve the key problem which is the fact that only one search machine is in use. The last recommendation discussed at Tynwald is the one that we believe is essential, and that involves “staffing the second line for a few hours at peak times only”

TravelWatch is very surprised that it has taken so long to consider potential solutions when the airline schedules have been known since the beginning of the year. We are also concerned at the statement “...*then will seek the assistance of Treasury in identifying the funds*”. TravelWatch is very nervous that such discussions can lead to further delays in implementation, and believes that the costs of increasing security staff should be met by the airlines and not involve decisions or expenditure by the Treasury. Spreading the costs of this vital change amongst the airlines (as happens at UK airports) will add just pence to each passenger flight.

The reputation of the Isle of Man is seriously at stake and the problem needs an early and urgent solution.

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