

20th February, 1932.

PERSONAL.

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

I am very much interested to learn from your letter of the 17th February of the plan for getting Dornoch scheduled as an air centre. I am making immediate enquiries to ascertain if there is anything I can do to help, and it will give me very great pleasure if I am able to assist you in the development of Mr. Campbell's scheme.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Archibald Sinclair". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

J. Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH,
Sutherland.



Scottish Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

2nd March, 1932.

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

I have now received a reply from the Air Ministry to the enquiries which I made following the receipt of your letter of the 17th February regarding the question of the scheduling of Dornoch as an air centre. The position is that the Air Ministry naturally welcome any increase in the number of Municipal airports, but their attitude is that the initiative in such matters should come from the local authorities concerned. If your Town Council are anxious to proceed in the matter your proper course of action would be to get into touch with any one of the unofficial aerodrome consultants who are known and approved by the Air Ministry for this purpose. Particulars of these consultants are given on the attached list which I have obtained from the Air Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Archibald Miller

J. Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk's Office,
Dornoch,
Sutherland.

Aerodrome Consultants approved by the
Air Ministry.

Sir Alan Cobham, K.B.E., A.F.C.	Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.
National Flying Services Ltd.	-ditto-
Automobile Association "Aviation Department" (Selection of Sites only)	Fanum House, New Coventry Street London, W.1.
Aerodrome Construction Ltd.	39, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
Airwork Ltd.	Heston Air Park, Hounslow, Mdx.
George Pretyman Ltd.	55-58, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

H. F. CAMPBELL,
ADVOCATE.
TELEPHONE NO. 568.

8/3/32
write to
H. F. C.

25, Union Terrace,
Aberdeen.

4th March 1932.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Dornoch.

My dear Sir,

Sir Archibald Sinclair has sent me a copy of his letter to you dated 2nd inst. and in view of the fact that the N.B. Aviation Company Ltd. Hooton Aerodrome, Cheshire, is not on Sir Archibald's list of consultants I suggest that you might get in touch with Mr. Laing, Town Clerk, Inverness, and ask him if they had the advice of a consultant approved by the Air Ministry in making the arrangements for adopting the Longman site as a landing place for aeroplanes.

I am writing to Mr. Fresson enquiring whether he is a recognized consultant and if so what his fee would be for selecting a site and reporting upon it. You might be able before next meeting of Council to get a note of the charges of some of these consultants.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. Campbell

B.M.

7th March

32

Geo. J. Laing, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Inverness.

Dear Mr. Laing,

One of our Councillors - Bailie H.F. Campbell - is interesting himself in aviation, and has been in communication with Sir Archibald Sinclair, M.P., Secretary for Scotland, urging the unique claims of Bornaok as a landing place for aeroplanes in connection with the carriage of Mails to the Orkney Isles.

Bailie Campbell, who is at present in Aberdeen, has written me to find out from you if you had the advice of a Consultant approved by the Air Ministry in making the arrangements for adopting the Longman site as a landing place, and if so who he was and what his fee?

If you can give me this and any other useful information, I shall be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

ROYAL BURG H OF INVERNESS

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"TOWN CLERK"

TELEPHONE N°43.



G. SMITH LAING,
TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk's Office.

Town House.

Inverness 10th March, 1932.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
D O R N O C H.

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

AERODROME.

I am favoured with your letter of 7th inst., enquiring if my Council had had the advice of a consultant approved by the Air Ministry in making arrangements for providing a landing place at the Longman for aircraft, and what his fee was.

Some two years ago the Air Ministry sent down Major Mealling of that Department to inspect possible sites for an Aerodrome at Inverness. Major Mealling made an exhaustive inspection of possible sites in and around Inverness, and he furnished a Report in which he stated that in his opinion the Longman was the most suitable site. No fee or expenses were charged by the Ministry of Air for this inspection and Report. We had a proposal from Sir Alan Cobham to inspect and report upon possible sites for an Aerodrome, but his fee amounted to £100, and we /

John Sutherland, Esq.

we did not think it necessary to employ him in view of the Report which we had had from Major Mealling. I am sure that if you communicated with the Ministry of Air telling them that you would like them to make an inspection of suitable landing places at Dornoch, they would be quite prepared to do so.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in connection with the matter, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "TOWA Clerk".

TOWA Clerk.

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY,
AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.



AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

and the following number quoted:—

168204/32/C.A.4.

24 March, 1932.

Sir,

Municipal Aerodrome.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant upon the above-mentioned subject.

In reply I am to state it is regretted that owing to the shortage of staff and to the volume of work which has arisen in connection with municipal aerodromes, it has been found impossible to afford local authorities the assistance given heretofore by this Department and it is therefore not possible to accede to your request for an Air Ministry representative to carry on a reconnaissance of the district for possible sites.

It is suggested that your Council should consider the employment of one of the Consultants recognised by the Air Ministry as competent to undertake surveys of this nature and a list of these Consultants is enclosed herewith.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D. L. Allen

for Deputy Director of Civil Aviation.

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

H. F. CAMPBELL,
M.A., B.L.,
Advocate in Aberdeen
and
Solicitor, Dornoch.

MASONIC BUILDINGS,
DORNOCH,

Telephone No. 568 (Aberdeen).
No. 30 (Dornoch).

4th April 1932

John Sutherland }
Town Clerk.

Dear Sir

Aerodrome

I return Mr. Innes's letter dated 5th Inst.
I have already reported to him what was decided at the Town Council.
In your official reply you might say that probably
the promoters of the scheme will take steps to raise the
required funds

Yours faithfully
H. F. Campbell

15th April

32.

H. B. Fressen Esq.,
North British Aviation Co., Ltd.,
Hootan Aerodrome,
Cheshire.

Dear Sir,

I duly received and submitted your letter of 5th inst to a meeting of the Town Council.

The matter of the survey of a site for an aerodrome at Dornoch was continued for further consideration, and meantime it was remitted to Bailie H.F. Campbell and myself to make additional enquiries, and to again write the Air Ministry, and to report to next meeting of Council.

Bailie Campbell who is very keen on the scheme is hopeful that the promoters may be able to take steps to raise the required funds for the survey. After the question has been again considered by the Council you will hear from me.

Thanking you for the trouble you have taken.

Yours faithfully,

Town

15th April

32.

Air Ministry,
Gwydyr House,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.

Dear Sirs,

Referring to your letter dated 28th ulto., will you be good enough to let me know if the North British Aviation Company Limited, Hooton Aerodrome, Cheshire are included in the List of recognised Consultants of your Ministry.

Would the Air Ministry approved of a site selected by Mr. Fresson of the North British Aviation Company ?

I shall be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

Town-Clerk.

1 8/4/32
Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY,
AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1



AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

and the following number quoted:—

168204/32/C.A.4.

21st April, 1932.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th instant. In reply I am to say that the North British Aviation Company Limited do not find a place on the list of Aerodrome Consultants approved by the Air Ministry.

The Air Ministry are unable to bind themselves to approve of an aerodrome site selected by Mr. Fresson of the North British Aviation Company. I am to point out that sites selected by approved Consultants are not necessarily accepted by the Air Ministry, but each case is treated upon its merits. In every instance before a permanent aerodrome site is licensed an inspection is carried out by an Air Ministry official.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. Allen

for Deputy Director of Civil Aviation.

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
Dornoch.

Tel. No. :
VICTORIA 1216.

AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

21st April, 1932.

Dear Town Clerk,

I have written you to-day officially in reply to your letter of the 15th instant.

Looking through the correspondence it seems to me as if we are rather getting at cross purposes. The policy of the Air Ministry is to assist Local Authorities who may be desirous of establishing Municipal Air ports. We want to help you and not to hinder you. At the same time it is quite essential that the Local Authority should put their cards on the table and say quite frankly what they want. If the Air Ministry knows what the Local Authority is really getting at they can be of considerable assistance. Local Authorities are very apt to be wooed by the soft words of some local aviator or joy-riding pilot and to look upon their pronouncements as infallible. The Air Ministry has found that such advice is very often faulty. They therefore have appointed a very limited number of Consultants whose rôle is to assist Local Authorities or others who may be drawing up schemes for aerodromes. But here again the advice of the Consultant is checked by a Ministry official. Most Local Authorities have to borrow money in order to finance aerodrome projects and such loans have to be approved by the appropriate Government department.

In the case of Dornoch I am not quite certain whether it would be the Ministry of Health or the Scottish Office. In either case the Air Ministry would

John Sutherland Esq.,
The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
Dornoch.

/be

B.M.

26th April

32

PERSONAL.

D. L. Allen, Esq.,
Air Ministry,
Gwydyr House,
Whitehall,
London, S.W 1.

Dear Mr. Allen,

I am extremely obliged for your kind letter of 21st instant.

The Member of our Town Council, Bailie Campbell, is at present absent. As soon as he returns, I shall submit your letters to him. He is the moving spirit on the Council in this matter, and he does not wish to force things at the Council Table until we have fuller particulars. Your letter, however, will enlighten him on the points which I do not think he quite understood.

Again thanking you for all your trouble.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

H. F. CAMPBELL,
ADVOCATE.
TELEPHONE NO. 568.

25, Union Terrace,
Aberdeen.
11th May 1952.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Dornoch.

Dear Sir,

Notice of Motion.

Kindly put the annexed motion on the agenda for next stated meeting of the Town Council.

Proney Burial Ground.

At the meeting of the District Council of Dornoch and Creich held on 9th inst. the Clerk informed the Council that there had been no outlays on current account during the year 1951-52. The Requisition of the County Clerk for £15:15/- from the Burgh for such outlays was therefore inept.

Aerodrome.

13/5/52
If you have not already replied to the Air Ministry I suggest that in your reply you should state that what is desired in Dornoch is the selection by an authorized expert of an aerial landing site in Dornoch which could later on become an aerodrome and Dornoch be recognized as an Air Port.

It is interesting to see how Mr. Fresson is to get on at Inverness.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. Campbell

Notice of Motion.

That a request be submitted to the Convention of Royal Burghs to promote an Amendment of the 21st section of the L.G. (Scotland) Act of 1929 to secure that all County Council Requisitions under the said section shall be based upon the annual budgets of the respective County Councils.

13th May

32.

D. L. Allen Esq.,
Air Ministry,
Gwydyr House,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Allen,

With reference to my letter of 26th ulto., I have now had an opportunity of submitting your letter of 21st ulto., to Bailie Campbell.

What is desired in Dornoch is the selection by an authorised expert of an aerial landing site which could later on become an aerodrome and Dornoch be recognised as an Air Port.

The Town Council are owners of extensive Links which I understand offer good facilities for a landing place. If a suitable site was found on the Links the Town Council would not have to incur any expenditure in connection with the purchase of land, and this would be a considerable saving.

I gather from your letter that the correct procedure would be to engage one of the unofficial aerodrome consultants approved by the Air Ministry and thereafter submit his report to the Air Ministry for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Town-Clerk.

Tel. No. :
VICTORIA-1916. 7171.

AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Ref:- 168204/32.

20th May, 1932.

Dear Mr Sutherland

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I would suggest that the best course for your Authority to pursue would be to engage the services of one of the recognised Aerodrome Consultants and arrange for him to carry out a reconnaissance of the area surrounding Dornoch.

In order to give you a rough idea of the Air Ministry requirements for a permanent civil aerodrome, I enclose some notes dealing with the matter. Most areas of ground need a certain amount of improvement before they are fit for aerodrome purposes. It is, however, quite possible that the Dornoch Links are already suitable for aerodrome purposes, but it will be possible to judge this when the Consultant's report is received.

It would certainly be advantageous for your Authority to decide upon an area of ground as the location of your future air port and then gain control of the site and its surroundings. If this is done, the erection of buildings which might prove dangerous to flying and thereby affect the Air Ministry licence of the site could be prevented. Furthermore, it would be much easier to arrange with the Electricity Commission to keep high tension cables away from the vicinity of the site.

It is not the policy of the Air Ministry at the present moment to urge Local Authorities to embark on heavy expenditure on aerodrome projects. They do, however, suggest that it is to the advantage of Local Authorities to decide
/upon

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH,
N.B.

H. F. CAMPBELL,
ADVOCATE.
TELEPHONE NO. 568.

25, Union Terrace,
Aberdeen.

10th February 1955.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Dornoch.

Dear Sir,

Aerodrome.

It is now announced in the press that Mr. Fresson with whom we corresponded a year ago is to open an air service between Inverness, Wick, Thurso and Kirkwall and that aerodromes or landing sites have been provided in all these places.

You may remember that you had a kind letter from one of the staff of the Air Ministry whose name I forget. It occurred to me that you might now ask this gentleman whether the North British Aircraft Co. Ltd. (of which Mr. Fresson is a Director) has been placed on the panel of experts of the Air Ministry. If the new air service starts from Inverness in April a demand will no doubt arise in Dornoch to have an aerodrome or landing place provided.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. Campbell

B.M.

14th February

33

D. L. Allen, Esq.,
Air Ministry,
Gwydyn House,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Allen,

I refer to your kind letter of 20th May last, and previous correspondence.

Would you please inform me if the North British Aircraft Coy., Ltd., (of which Mr. Fresson is a Director), has been placed on the panel of experts of the Air Ministry?

Mr. Campbell, though no longer a member of our Council, still takes a keen interest in the question of an Aerodrome for Dornoch, and in view of the proposed air service from Inverness in April, he thinks a demand will arise in Dornoch to have a landing place provided.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

Tel. No.:

~~VICTORIA 4040~~

Whitehall 7171.

Ref: 168204/32.

AIR MINISTRY,
GWYDYR HOUSE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

18th February, 1933.

Dear *M^r Sutherland,*

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant and in reply beg to inform you that no application has as yet been received from Mr. Fresson to be placed on the panel of either Aviation Consultants or Aerodrome Engineering Consultants. Firms are not placed on the lists as such, as approval is restricted to individuals. In brief, therefore, the reply to your letter is in the negative.

Yours *Sincerely*

D. L. Allen

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

AIR MINISTRY.

Air Navigation Act, 1920.

No. of Application
Fee Paid
Class

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE FOR AERODROME.

(Site proposed to be permanently used as an aerodrome.)

The fee chargeable, in accordance with the Schedule on the back hereof, for a licence for an Aerodrome to be used by aircraft carrying passengers for hire or reward must be forwarded with this application. The sum should be paid by Cheque or Postal Order, made payable to the "Secretary, Air Ministry," and crossed "Bank of England—A/C H.M. Paymaster-General."

1. Full name and address of Applicant	<i>Proposed Aerodrome site Lynne Lodge, Downoch</i>
2. Nationality	<i>Scott</i>
3. Situation of the Aerodrome	<i>Lynne Downoch</i>
4. State whether the Aerodrome is for :— (a) Private use (i.e. by the licensee and by individuals specifically authorised by him) If for private use, is it proposed to give instruction in flying? (b) Public use If for public use, particulars of accommodation, services, &c., existing and proposed, should be given, viz. :— (i) Accommodation ... (1) Existing ... (Hangars, workshops, &c.) (2) Proposed ... (ii) Facilities for supply of fuel and oil ... (1) Existing ... (2) Proposed ... (iii) Medical facilities .. (1) Existing ... (2) Proposed ...	<i>Yes, if required by visitors No As a landing area None as yet As required None as arranged with garages Town Doctor & Nurse —</i>
5. Are you the owner of the land for which the licence is required? If not, state :— (a) What rights you hold over the land (b) For what period you hold those rights (c) The name and address of the tenant or owner who has granted permission for the use of the site	<i>Yes — — —</i>
6. For what period do you wish to use the Aerodrome?	<i>Summer time each year, 1921</i>
7. Type or types of aircraft for which it is proposed to use the Aerodrome	<i>Private & Passenger</i>
8. Nearest railway station to the Aerodrome	<i>Downoch</i>

I hereby declare that the above particulars are true in every respect.

Signature of Applicant..... Date of Application.....

GOP

Air Ministry,

London, W.c.2

18th August, 1933.

257194/33/C.A.2.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 12th August, 1933, addressed to Mr. J. Kennedy, which has been passed to this Department, and to return herewith licence No. 3364 for a civil aerodrome at Dornoch, Sutherland, and to say that while the Air Ministry would have no objection to your permitting the Town Council of Dornoch to operate from the aerodrome under the terms of the existing licence during its remaining period of validity, the Air Ministry is unable to transfer the licence to the Town Council without an application for transfer from the Council and a statement from you to the effect that you are willing that the licence shall be so transferred.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) B.B. Muckleston

for Deputy Director of Civil
Aviation.

The Scottish Motor Traction Co., Ltd.,
29, East Fountainbridge,
Edinburgh.

B.M.

25th August

33

The Secretary,
Air Ministry,
London, W.C.2.

Sir,

Your Ref. 257194/33/C.A.2

I refer to your letter of 18th instant to the Scottish Motor Traction Coy., Ltd., Edinburgh, relative to licence No. 3364 for a civil aerodrome at Dornoch.

I am now directed to make formal application for the transfer of this licence from the Scottish Motor Traction Coy., Ltd., to the Town Council of Dornoch.

Perhaps I may add that the Master of Sempill who was here the other day inspecting the ground is aware of the proposed transfer.

I am,
Sir, Your obedient servant,

Town Clerk.

18
TEL. No. HOLBORN 3434.

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY,
AIR MINISTRY,
ADASTRAL HOUSE,
KINGSWAY,
LONDON, W.C.2.



AIR MINISTRY,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

and the following number quoted:—

257194/33/D.D.C.A.

16 September, 1933.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to your letter dated 25th ultimo in which application is made for the licence in respect of the civil aerodrome at Dornoch Links, Dornoch, to be transferred from The Scottish Motor Traction Company, Limited, to the Town Council of Dornoch.

2. I am to state that action is being taken accordingly and a licence will be forwarded to you as early as possible. It is assumed that the licence should be issued to the Provost, Magistrates and Burgesses of the Burgh of Dornoch and perhaps you will confirm that this is correct.

3. In this connection I am to state that, in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the Air Navigation Act, 1920, the Council hereby give their consent to the establishment and maintenance by the Town Council of Dornoch of an aerodrome at Dornoch Links, Dornoch.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.A. Dargstode

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
Dornoch,
Sutherland.

19th September

33

The Secretary,
Air Ministry,
Aadastral House,
Kingsway,
LONDON W.C. 2.

Sir,

Your Ref. 25719A/33/DDCA

I received your letter of 16th instant, and note that the transfer of the licence for a civil Aerodrome here is now having attention.

The licence should be issued in the corporate name of the Council, viz:- "The Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the "Royal Burgh of Dornoch".

The Council have resolved to establish and maintain an Aerodrome on the Links and the requirements of Section 8 and 19 of the Air Navigation Act 1920 has been duly observed.

I may state for your information that at the moment only a landing place is provided on the Links which belongs to the Council. If, within the next few years, the facilities offered are taken advantage of, the site will be developed.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Town-Clerk

18th September 33

The General Manager,
Highland Airway Ltd.,
36 Academy Street,
INVERNESS

Dear Sir,

Your Ref. B.E.F./J.D.M.

I received your letter of 16th instant.

The conditions verbally extended to your Company at meeting of Council on 1st. ulto, were as follows:-

- (1) Free landing facilities for 3 years;
- (2) Any Company operating in Inverness in opposition to your Company between Inverness and Kirkwall only, being excluded from landing at Dornoch;
- (3) Half cost of preparing landing ground to be borne by your Company:

If your Company are agreeable to these conditions, a formal agreement can be drawn up accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Town-Clerk

COPY

The Master of Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway
London, W.C.2.

BALLOAN,
D O R N O C H.
17th October 1933.

My dear Sir,

I am enclosing copy letter dated 13th instant from the Air Ministry. You will please note that the Ministry is taking for granted we are at once to proceed with Aerodrome buildings &c. Of course we hope that that development will ultimately materialise, but meantime it is merely a landing place we are considering. The grounds both Lord Sempill and yourself have seen, and the recommendations as to bunkers &c and mowing of grass have been carried out as you suggested.

The S. M. T. took out a licence and wished it transferred to the Town Council, while at the same time, the Town Council forwarded you £1: 1/- for a licence. There is no purpose of the Town Council taking out a licence provided the S. M. T. have got one and it is to be transferred to the Town Council.

I shall be obliged if you can straighten out this little tangle with the Ministry so that we may know how we stand.

Sorry putting you to so much trouble, but thanking you very much for past services.

With very kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Fredrick of Balloan

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
 (Fifth Floor)
 KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference

Your Reference

Date 26th October 1933.



The Provost of Dornoch,
BALLOAN,
DORNOCH.

Sir:

In the absence of the Master of Sempill, who left for South and North America in the Graf Zeppelin on October 14th, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant.

This is a matter which the Master has been dealing with personally, and it would appear that he was awaiting a further communication from Sqd.-Leader Russell prior to taking further action. As the Master will be back in a little over a week, I think, perhaps, in the circumstances it may be better to await his return, but if you feel there is any urgency, I would take the matter up with the Ministry. Unless, however, I hear to the contrary, I shall presume it is your wish that the matter is held over pending the Master's return.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary. 

The Secretary
for Master of Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway,
LONDON, W.C.2.

BALLOAN,
Dornoch, 6th November 1933.

Dear Sir,

After receipt of your letter of 26th ulto., I learned of the accident to the Master of Sempill, and I am exceedingly sorry to hear of same, and hope he will make a speedy recovery.

As the Master is not likely now to be home for some time, you might please communicate with the Air Ministry. All previous correspondence and details re what has been done were sent to the Master of Sempill, and the landing place was in the opinion of the Master and Lord Sempill found most suitable for planes landing and immune from danger in the way of houses, woods &c &c.

Sir Archibald Sinclair also was over the ground, and he has correspondence and personal knowledge of the matter. You can communicate with him if you find it necessary,

Of course you will understand there is no intention meantime to construct an Aerodrome, - simply a landing place.

Yours faithfully,

Provost of Dornoch.

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference
Your Reference

Date 15th July, 1933.

My dear Provost,

Very many thanks for your letter of July 1st which I regret not having answered before due to absence.

I am sorry that the pilots of the S. M. T. have not reported on your landing place, and I am enclosing herewith a form (in duplicate, so that you can keep one copy) which I should be glad if you could have filled up and returned to me.

I will certainly do my best to pay a visit to the North as soon as I can, but do not know just when this will be. Perhaps you would let me know when you hear from Sir Archibald Sinclair.

Yours sincerely,

Enclosures.



The Master of Sempill,

The Provost of Dornoch,
"Balloan",
Dornoch,
Sutherlandshire, N.B.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including a large closing bracket and some illegible text.

R O Y A L B U R G H O F D O R N O C H .

At the request of the Provost, I hereby call a SPECIAL Meeting of the Town Council, to be held in my Office on Friday evening at 8 o'clock - "To consider letter from the Master of Sempil re landing place for aircraft".

J. Sutherland,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Dornoch.

19th July, 1933.

B.M.

22nd July

33

The Master of Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway,
London, W.C.2.

Sir,

Your letter of 13th instant to Provost Murray was submitted to a meeting of the Town Council last night, when I was instructed to send you herewith application for licence for Aerodrome along with fee of £1:1/-.

The Provost has asked me to express the hope that you may soon be able to come north. I shall be glad to have the result of the application on an early date.

Yours Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Town Clerk.

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:—
HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference

Your Reference

Date 5th August 1933.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,


Please forgive me for the delay in replying to your letter of July 22nd, which has already been acknowledged.

The matter is, of course, being dealt with, but before it can be completed it is necessary that you should send me a local six-inch ordnance survey map, clearly marking the location and measurements of the proposed landing ground. Any serious obstructions within one thousand yards of the boundaries of the site should also be shown.

It will of course be necessary in any event for the site to be inspected by a pilot, and I had hoped that this could have been done by one of the S.M.F.C. pilots. As, however, this has not been done, and it will not, apparently, be practicable to make the inspection locally, I will arrange to visit Dornoch round about the 20th of this month and make the necessary inspection and report.

Hoping to hear from you,

Yours faithfully,


The Master of Sempill.

B.M.

11th August

33

The Master of Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway,
London, W.C. 2.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 5th instant which I received yesterday.

Flight Lieut. Russell, Superintendent of the S.M.T.C., visited the ground yesterday, and he is applying for a licence in name of the T.C., and will furnish you with an Ordnance Survey Map with the location and measurements of the proposed landing ground.

The Provost and I shall be glad to go over the ground with you when you arrive on or about the 20th instant. Please let me hear from you when you have definitely fixed the date of your visit.

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
 (Fifth Floor) . . .
 KINGSWAY . . .
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference
Your Reference.....

Date 14th August, 1933

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
Dornock,
Scotland.

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased indeed to get your letter of the 11th inst. and am delighted to hear that you have had a visit from Flight Lieut. Russell. He is an old friend of mine and an excellent pilot. I shall be pleased to back his report with the appropriate Officials.

I am hoping to pay you a visit about the 20th so as to familiarise myself with the general lay-out of the ground.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,


The Master of Sempill

7th March

34

The Secretary,
to Master of Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway,
LONDON W.C. 2.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the Town Council to ask you to convey to the Master their sincere sympathy in the great loss he has sustained through the death of his esteemed father.

With reference to your letter of 10th ulto, I am instructed to extend an invitation to the Master to come to Dornoch whenever he finds it convenient to do so, in order to go further into the question of the landing place for aircraft.

Yours faithfully,

Town-Clerk

From
The Master of Sempill

My Reference

Your Reference

SARDINIA HOUSE,
 (Fifth Floor) . . .
 KINGSWAY . . .
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

Date 6th April 1934.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

Lord Sempill has asked me to apologise for the delay in replying to your letter of the 7th March and at the same time to ask you kindly to convey to the Town Council his very great appreciation of their sympathy on the death of his father.

You will appreciate that in consequence of this there has been an inevitable delay in dealing with the vast amount of correspondence he has had, but his Lordship wishes me to say that he will take the first opportunity which presents itself of flying to Dornoch with a view to going further into the question of a landing field.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,



Secretary.

copy sent to Provost Murray on 11/4/34

From
The Master of Sempill

My Reference

Your Reference

SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

Date 27th July 1953.

24

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Master of Sempill in his absence from London to acknowledge receipt of your letter to him of the 22nd July, with which you enclose an Application for a Licence for an Aerodrome at Dornoch, together with the fee of £1. 1. 0. payable to the Air Ministry.

This matter will be placed before the Master on his return to this office.

Yours faithfully,

S. E. Williams

Secretary.

of 053,53

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:—
HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference.....
Your Reference.....

Date 10th February 1934.

John Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

*copy sent to Provost
on 15/2/34*

Dear Sir,

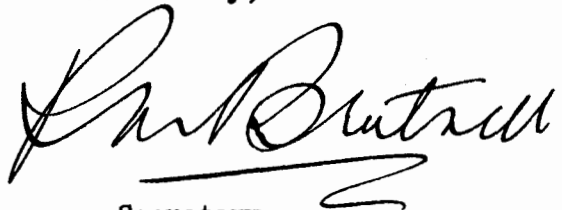
I am writing to inform you that the Master of Sempill is now back again in this country after his recent accident in America, and although he has not yet resumed his normal activities, he is wondering whether he can do anything more at this juncture to help you with regard to the aerodrome at Dornoch.

As you may know, I wrote fully on the 8th December to the Provost with regard to this matter, during the Master's absence in America, informing him of what the Air Ministry were prepared to do. Not having heard since, I have presumed that the matter has been allowed to rest over for the time being.

In view, however, of the delay in bringing this matter to a conclusion, I am afraid the cheque originally made out to the Air Ministry for one guinea, which had not been cleared, is now out-of-date, so that in the circumstances I am returning it to you herewith for cancellation.

The Master will be staying in Scotland for some little while, and if you feel it desirable he could probably come up to Dornoch and go further into the question.

Yours faithfully,



Secretary.

Enclosure.

20th August

34

Lord Sempill,
Sardinia House,
Kingsway,
LONDON W.C. 2.

My Lord,

I beg to refer your Lordship to my letter of 6th April last.

The Town Council are now anxious to have the Landing place licenced in their corporate name and landing dges fixed. Formerly the S.M.T. held the licence.

It is thought that in view of the Government's recent decision to increase the strength of the R.A.F. and the possibility of our ground being sought for the purposes of an R.A.F. base, that the Council should have everything in order in case of any such developments.

Before taking any steps, the Council would appreciate your Lordship's guidance and advice in the matter, and in this connection it is hoped that your Lordship may be able to visit Dornoch in the near future and discuss the whole question with representatives of the Council.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's

most obedient Servant,

Town-Clerk

3

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991
Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference.....
Your Reference.....

Date 28th August, 1934.

The Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

I was very glad to get your letter of August 20th and to note therefrom how keen your Council are on the development of a suitable Airpark.

It is now about a year since I had the pleasure of making a preliminary inspection of the site in the company of my late Father. Since then I gather that the ground in question has been used by the S. M. T.

The site in question is suitable and could be developed so far as the actual landing area is concerned without any great expense. I wish I had received your letter earlier as I was in Scotland last week on business and would have been glad to have flown over to Dornoch and discussed matters with you. Unfortunately I shall be leaving for Australia fairly soon and will not be able to get to the North until my return in the early part of next year.

I will make certain enquiries from the R. A. F. along the lines that you have suggested and will write to you again.

Broadly speaking however you would certainly be well advised to maintain the present area which has, I assume, been properly prepared for landing purposes in accordance with the suggestions I made to you during my visit last year. This landing area would be available as a part of the facilities normally offered by your Council for the convenience of those visiting Dornoch. At a later stage it would no doubt be desirable to erect some modest shed accommodation. I do not visualise anything very

The Town Clerk.

28th August, 1934.

expensive, in fact the outlay would be well within the scope of a thousand pounds. For the moment, however, if the area is kept free of obstructions for landing and if arrangements can be made to supply fuel and oil as may be desired this is all that can be expected, but you certainly should have a development plan in view.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

5th September

31

Lord Sempill,
Sardina House,
Kingsway,
LONDON W.C. 2.

My Lord,

On behalf of the Town Council, I beg to thank your Lordship for letter of 28th ulto, and for the great interest your Lordship continues to take in the development of an air park at Dornoch.

The Council will be glad to meet your Lordship on the site, and to discuss the matter generally whenever it is convenient for your Lordship to do so.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

Town-Clerk

From
The Master of Sempill

My Reference.....

Your Reference.....

SARDINIA HOUSE,
 (Fifth Floor) . . .
 KINGSWAY . . .
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

Date 7th Sept. 1934.

J. Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of September 5th and thank you for the kind invitation extended to me by your Council to meet them on the site of the Dornoch Air Park. I am afraid that it is impossible for me to get to Dornoch before my departure for Australia. If the matter will wait over until next spring then I shall be glad to come and assist you. If however, as is more than likely, you feel that it should be dealt with at an earlier date, then perhaps you will let me know and I will give you an indication as to who would be best able to render you further assistance.

During the time that I am away my Assistant here Mr. Brutnell will be dealing with all matters and is thoroughly conversant with the situation that we have been discussing.

Yours faithfully,


A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely 'J. Sutherland', written in dark ink. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

From
The Master of Sempill

10
SARDINIA HOUSE,
(Fifth Floor)
KINGSWAY
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference.....

Your Reference.....

Date 21st Sept. 1934.

J. Sutherland, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Clerk's Office,
DORNOCH.

Dear Sir,

I have been giving further consideration to the question of the projected development of your Municipal Air Park and the possibility of it when ready being used by the R. A. F. Whereas of course the R. A. F. might from time to time use such facilities as you could offer them, I do not think you can anticipate any extensive use by service aircraft. You will, therefore, have to look to a gradual growth in the development of civil and commercial aviation.

Yours faithfully,


Sutherland

From
The Master of Sempill

SARDINIA HOUSE,
 (Fifth Floor) . . .
 KINGSWAY . . .
LONDON, W.C. 2

Telephone:— HOLBORN 0991

Telegrams:—
"SEMPILAERO" LONDON

My Reference.....
Your Reference.....

Date. 25th June, 1936.

My dear Provost,

I was very glad to have had a few words with you on the telephone the other day while you were visiting Mr. Whitney Straight.

Since then I have had a conversation with him, and know that he is keen on developing flying at Dornoch.

I will most certainly collaborate with him and do all that is possible to further any plans he may have in mind. I know something of the conditions around Dornoch, and feel quite sure that the facilities you have are excellent, and a very satisfactory landing ground can be developed at very small expense.

When I am in the neighbourhood I will most certainly pay you a visit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sempill', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Provost John Murray,
Balloan,
DORNOCH,
Sutherland.

