



Report by the Technical Adviser

Agenda Item:	Reference: HACC.487
Date: May 10 2007	
Security checks and issue of airport identity passes	

1. Members will be aware from discussions at recent meetings of both the HACC and the PSSC about problems and delays which have occurred in the issue of airport passes to enable members of the Committee to go "airside" and to undertake the various familiarisation and monitoring exercises which the PSSC is responsible for.
2. At this time of writing, despite assurances which have been given, those passes have still not been issued and, as a result, the work of the PSSC is being impeded.
3. An aspect of those security checks which has not hitherto been raised at Heathrow has been the subject of correspondence between the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee and the Minister for Aviation. In view of the implications, that Committee has circulated the correspondence to other Consultative Committees and copies are annexed to this report.
4. The matter raised with the Minister on 28 November 2006, concerned the very limited criminal history checks which are possible for many foreign nationals and the fact that the Committee had found that the checks came back all clear when this was not always the case. That Committee was concerned that UK applicants are fully screened so that there is a disparity between UK and foreign national job applicants.
5. There are, of course, many foreign nationals employed at Heathrow.
6. The Minister did reply, on April 25 2007, with a generally re-assuring letter summarising the various security arrangements which are in force but without offering the Manchester Committee and new or extended procedures to meet their security concerns.