

Chief Executive's Office

Lord Berkeley
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

26 February 2014

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2014 enquiring as to the progress of the application by Isles of Scilly Skybus for a Dangerous Goods Approval.

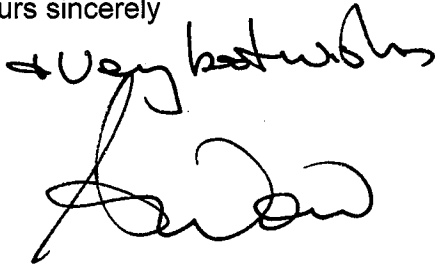
Following your letter, my colleagues contacted Skybus once more on 14 February and they provided an update on the progress they are making towards compliance with the requirements for the safe carriage of dangerous goods. The reason stated by Skybus for the delay is that a number of their staff have yet to undertake the required dangerous goods awareness training. They expect this to be completed with the next two months.

In order to assist with the transport of human samples from the Isles of Scilly to the UK mainland whilst Skybus completes the required training, and because the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is fully aware of the important nature of transporting samples, we have granted them a temporary approval to carry blood samples. Skybus has assured the CAA that it will continue to work towards meeting the requirements in order to receive its full Dangerous Goods Approval before the temporary approval expires, and we will continue to monitor Skybus' progress.

With regard to the need for approval, human specimens such as blood or urine samples may contain pathogens which, for safety reasons when being transported, requires them to be classified as dangerous goods. Human specimens for which there is *minimal* likelihood that pathogens are present are not classified as dangerous goods. Guidance produced by the Department for Transport, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority on the Transport of Infectious Substances (published at www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/252974/guidance-note-17.pdf) cautions against not classifying such specimens as dangerous goods on the basis that it is not always possible to determine whether specimens contain pathogens to some degree. The guidance therefore strongly recommends that all human specimens should be classified as dangerous goods to avoid the inadvertent consignment of such goods when not in compliance with the applicable safety requirements.

I hope that this clarifies the current situation, why a Dangerous Goods Approval is required, and reassures you that the CAA is supporting Skybus towards compliance with the requirements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Haines', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Haines
CHIEF EXECUTIVE