

24th March 2020

Penzance Helicopters pauses service to Scilly

In accordance with the latest Government and World Health Organisation (WHO) advice concerning COVID-19, Penzance Helicopters has made the difficult, but important decision to temporarily cease all commercial flights scheduled over the next few weeks.

Penzance Helicopters is working closely with visitors currently on the Isles of Scilly that were due to fly back to the mainland in the coming week to ensure their safe passage home today.

Passengers who have bookings in place between now and 14th April 2020 are in the process of being contacted by the Penzance Helicopters team and will be provided with a full credit which can be used to rebook flights within the next 12-months. Flights due to take place after the 14th April will be reviewed in the coming weeks, in line with the latest Government guidance.

We are working closely with partners, including the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company to coordinate and consolidate services in these challenging times.

Jeremy Awenat, Managing Director of Sloane Helicopters, comments on the decision:

“It is with a heavy heart that we have come to the important decision to cease flights temporarily in accordance with Government guidance to limit social interactions and mitigate non-essential travel. The health and wellbeing of our passengers and employees is of the utmost importance to us.

“We want to thank everyone for their overwhelming support, including our passengers that we had the pleasure of flying during our first week of operation. We look forward to welcoming everyone aboard Penzance Helicopters and continuing to provide a weather-resilient transport service when it is appropriate to do so.”

Further information can be found at www.penzancehelicopters.co.uk/news/covid-19-coronavirus-update, which will be updated regularly. Customers can call the team on 01604 817115 to discuss their bookings.

ENDS

For further information, or to request an interview, please contact Rebecca Bennett at Wild West Communications:

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Notes to Editors:

- Penzance Heliport is receiving up to £1,866,018 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. Established by the European Union, the Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>
- Founded over 48 years ago by its current Chairman, David George, Sloane Helicopters is a leading European onshore helicopter company providing a full suite of aviation services. As the sole UK and Ireland Distributor and authorised Service Centre for Leonardo Helicopters (the leading twin-engine helicopter manufacturer) for over 24 years, Sloane has developed an unrivalled close partnership with the manufacturer and is renowned for its expertise with Leonardo products. Sloane is also a Dealer and Authorised Service Centre for the Robinson Helicopter Company and has extensive experience with operating aircraft for Air Ambulance charities and the Government, together with charter operations. The company's flight training centre of excellence offers the industry leading instruction and the Company's crews are trained to the highest standards.

- Robert Dorrien-Smith, owner of Tresco Estate, is one of the key investors in the Penzance Heliport facility. The Dorrien-Smith family first became proprietors of Tresco in 1834 and Robert's involvement with the new helicopter operation will help bring resilience and connectivity to the wider islands to sustain future growth.
- The Heliport can be easily accessed by car or train. Penzance railway station is located one mile away from the Heliport and can be reached in less than five minutes by electric shuttle-bus, while parking for 270 vehicles is available onsite for those travelling by car.
- Flights will take place from Monday to Saturday with up to 17 flights per day.
- All passengers are welcome, within the constraints of safety regulations and the size and layout of the aircraft. Penzance Helicopters ask passengers to advise of any disability or reduced mobility at the time of booking.
- Penzance Helicopters welcomes infants (under two years old) and children (aged between two and 11), with reduced fares. Passengers under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a passenger over the age of 18. Passengers between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age may travel unaccompanied provided they have a completed consent form and a copy of their parent or guardian's passport or identity document.
- The operation has a generous luggage allowance of 20kg per passenger. Bags should be soft and are limited to a size of 70 x 39 x 31 cm.