



MARK R. BAKER
President and CEO

May 24, 2022

Mrs. Latia Duncombe
Acting Director General
Office of the Director-General
The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mrs. Duncombe:

It has recently come to my attention, from third parties, that The Bahamas Customs and Excise Department plans to implement the Click2Clear initiative on May 30, 2022, next Monday, for all private aircraft operators flying into and out of The Bahamas. Unfortunately, since this program has not been officially announced nor assimilated with private pilots, I write to request postponing the implementation of the Click2Clear program for private pilots until the end of the first quarter of 2023.

This pause will allow the necessary time to obtain feedback from impacted stakeholders to make any necessary improvements to the Click2Clear initiative, provide education and training on any new customs processes, and to implement the initiative during a lower air traffic period to avoid confusion and any major disruptions in the event of a system malfunction.

As someone who flies to The Bahamas, I and others are concerned about this new and untested process for private aircraft pilots. Although it appears Click2Clear has been in existence since 2018 for air cargo operators, we are not aware of any formal announcement or information published on The Bahamas' government website. While I appreciate the initiative by The Bahamas in supporting new and efficient methods to improve the customs process, I believe reasonable notice with adequate instruction is also warranted.

Although Click2Clear might be appropriate for other users (e.g., air cargo), I have been informed by others suggesting that it is very tedious, cumbersome, and unintuitive. AOPA would like to work with your team to ensure the Click2Clear program is vetted for use by private pilots so as to ensure we can reduce complexity and confusion and avoid the risk of deterring and alienating private operators from visiting The Bahamas.

AOPA also is one of the largest, if not the largest, supporters and marketers of travel to the Bahamas. Our very successful Bahamas Guide, which includes information for 57 airports has been the go-to resource for private pilots flying to The Bahamas for many years. This comprehensive book includes maps with airport data and the layout of each island, Customs & Immigration information, and much more. And, unfortunately, with no notice whatsoever, we won't be able to include in the Guide the proposed implementation and information necessary to comply with Click2Clear.

I have always appreciated the willingness of The Bahamas Tourism and Aviation Ministry in working with AOPA and sincerely appreciate your positive consideration to postpone implementation of the Click2Clear initiative as we work together to ensure an efficient and functional program for private pilots.

Sincerely,



Mark Baker
President and CEO

cc: Greg Rolle, Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation
Jim Coon, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs & Advocacy, AOPA