



Dear colleague

**Airports National Policy Statement - Parliamentary Vote – email from UK and international airline community**

As you will be aware, the Airports National Policy Statement has been laid before Parliament and a vote is now expected within 21 sitting days. As the three airline trade organisations, representing the large majority of UK and international airlines operating in the United Kingdom, we wish to advise the coordinated position of the airline community in respect of Heathrow expansion and the Airports National Policy Statement.

The vast majority of airlines are **strongly supportive of affordable and deliverable expansion** at Heathrow airport. The demand from airlines to operate at Heathrow has consistently outstripped the available capacity for many years and much of this unfulfilled demand has been lost from the UK.

Heathrow expansion is a once in a generation opportunity to **transform domestic and international connectivity**, and support an increase in the UK's **world class cargo sector**, which is so critical to achieving future trade objectives. An expanded Heathrow will significantly increase competition, and ensure that the UK remains a leading international aviation hub. The time is now for the UK to invest in the essential infrastructure that will enable the global airline community to deliver upon the national economic objectives and aspirations.

We are therefore asking for cross-party support in the House of Commons to vote in favour of the Airports National Policy Statement as a decision taken in the national interest. Designation of the Airports National Policy Statement will be a crucial step in unlocking decades of delay and procrastination over airport expansion in the South East of England to the benefit of the whole of the UK. However, airline support remains conditional to satisfactory outcomes on the persistent concerns put forward by the airline community throughout the process, in particular around the **cost and affordability of the scheme** and its impact on future passenger charges.

The Airports National Policy Statement laid before you has not encompassed all the concerns of airlines. Consequently the CAA, as the independent regulator, must rigorously enforce a **strengthened regulatory process** to protect customers, through holding Heathrow Airport Limited to account over the details of the scheme as it progresses through the detailed planning process towards a Development Consent Order (DCO). It is passengers, airport users, and UK competitiveness who must stand to gain from Heathrow expansion – not just Heathrow shareholders – and airlines were pleased that the Secretary of State for Transport reiterated his ambition of keeping passenger charges at today's levels as a priority.

Airlines also recognise the need for environmental mitigations and sustainability with expansion, and much is already being achieved on **reducing aircraft noise and emissions** through significant investments in new technology. The UK has signed up to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Balanced Approach to aircraft noise management, which promotes recognised noise mitigation measures and sharing of benefits with communities. Airlines will require certainty that the detailed planning process will adhere to these balanced approach principles and allow the

flexibility for new initiatives, and innovative ideas, to be put forward within the consultation process on important measures, such as extended noise respite periods.

It would be our pleasure to answer any queries you may have on the airline position. Thank you for your consideration of our request for support for Heathrow expansion by voting in favour of the Airports National Policy Statement. We remain hopeful that the national interest will prevail in the parliamentary vote.

Best wishes

**Tim Alderslade** – Chief Executive, Airlines UK

**Rafael Schwartzman** – Regional Vice President Europe, IATA

**Dale Keller** – Chief Executive, Board of Airline Representatives in the UK