

BAA Airports Limited

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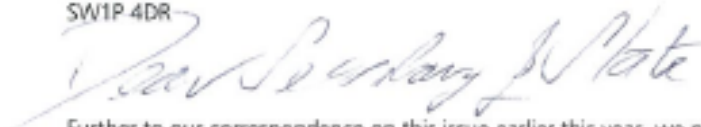
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Our ref: 2688/CM/TTL

25th April 2012


Rt Hon Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR



Further to our correspondence on this issue earlier this year, we note that the consultation paper and call for evidence relating to future aviation strategy and maintenance of hub status have now been delayed until the summer. We look forward to seeing those documents and participating in a full and open consultation process in due course.

In the meantime we have been concerned by various statements made by the Government this month which appear to indicate that the matter may not be approached openly, such as the Prime Minister's comments in Indonesia and the speech of Theresa Villiers MP on 18th April. These statements appear to be at odds with your reassurance to us that "this government will follow a proper process in developing a long term aviation policy which is in the UK's best interests" (your letter of 1st February 2012), and with other statements from the Government in recent months where the problem of airport capacity has been acknowledged in an open and constructive way without explicitly ruling out the option of a third runway at Heathrow (in particular the Chancellor's budget statement).

Obviously this is a difficult and complex issue, and we hope that the Government will approach it openly by following a due and proper process. The comments made by Theresa Villiers that it would not be right to pre-judge the outcome of the detailed and evidence-based decision making process, and that the experience of the last Government shows what a tangled web can be woven if one starts with one outcome in mind, give us encouragement that the Government will not fall into this trap by ruling out any options before the process has been undertaken.



Colin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

BAA Airports 

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Our ref: 2694/CM/TTL
Your ref:


16th May 2012

Rt Hon Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

We write further to our letter of 25th April 2012, to which we note no response has yet been received.

In light of press reports of recent comments made by senior individuals in Government regarding the option of a third runway at Heathrow, we re-iterate the points made in our 25th April letter. Our understanding is that the Government will indeed "follow a proper process in developing a long term aviation policy which is in the UK's best interests" (your letter of 1st February 2012), and that this means the option of a third runway at Heathrow will not be excluded from the possible outcomes of the forthcoming consultation process.


Colin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

BAA Airports 



Department for
Transport

From the Secretary of State

Colin Matthews
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Your Ref: 2688/CM/TTL

18 May, 2012


Dear Colin,

Thank you for your letters of 25 April and 16 May 2012 about the Government's forthcoming consultation on our UK aviation policy.

It was helpful to meet with you and the Heathrow Leadership Group last month to discuss a range of important aviation matters, including your preparations for the Olympics. I look forward to our continuing constructive engagement on this and many other issues.

As I have stated before, the Coalition's position on a third runway at Heathrow remains as set out in its programme for government.

I would also like to reassure you once again that this Government will follow a proper process in developing a long term aviation policy which is in the UK's best interests.

Best wishes,


JUSTINE GREENING



for advice for jobs

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Rt Hon Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
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1 June 2012

Jo Valentine

A new national aviation policy

We welcome the Government's focus on developing a long-term sustainable national aviation policy. As you have acknowledged, securing Britain's international connectivity is fundamental to expanding trade, attracting investment and generating economic activity that will create jobs. But if Government is committed to enabling growth it must also look to the short and medium term – increasing flights to new markets in the next 15 years.

If London, Britain's principal gateway to talent and capital, is to flourish as a world city and continue to drive the UK economy it will need growing air links. The forthcoming public consultation on a new aviation policy presents the chance for an open, transparent and rational assessment without prejudice of all options to grow London's international air links. It should allow for consideration of the case for Heathrow's growth and the growth of London's other point-to-point airports, including Gatwick.

Of course all options for new capacity present substantial challenges in terms of their financing, funding and particularly local impact. Public concern over noise levels must be addressed. We urge you to explore ways to repair trust through a truly independent noise regulator; permission for extra flights must be accompanied by a credible strategy to tackle noise.

A review open to all options would send a clear signal that Government is straining every sinew to develop a strategy that supports the UK's growth.



Baroness Jo Valentine
Chief Executive

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Department for
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From the Secretary of State

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Our Ref: MC/44116
Your Ref:

26 JUL 2012

Dear Jo,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2012 about the development of the Government's aviation policy.

As you know, we are developing a long-term strategy for a sustainable future for aviation. We want to provide a framework which supports economic growth and addresses aviation's environmental impacts.

On 12 July we published a draft aviation policy framework for consultation. This sets out the importance of aviation to the UK economy and the Government's proposals on how aviation can grow and deliver for the economy while meeting its noise and climate change obligations. The consultation closes on 31 October and we would welcome your views on the issues covered. We remain committed to adopting a final aviation policy framework by next spring. The draft framework can be found here: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-35>

We will also publish a separate call for evidence on maintaining the UK's international aviation connectivity later this year. Through this, we will consider a range of suggestions for how to maintain the UK's hub connectivity in a cost-effective and sustainable way and I can assure you that the Government will follow the proper process in relation to the call for evidence.

I would also like to reassure you that the local impact of aircraft noise remains a key issue for the Department. In the draft framework we set out our proposals on mitigating noise and other local environmental impacts.

I would like to thank you for your constructive engagement in this process to date, and encourage you to contribute to the consultation and forthcoming call for evidence.

Best Wishes,

Justine

JUSTINE GREENING