

## **Media Release**

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For Immediate Use**

### **BATA Comment on Publication of Aviation Policy Framework**

Commenting on the publication of the 'Aviation Policy Framework', Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association (BATA), said:

"The 'Aviation Policy Framework' marks the Coalition Government's recognition that it is vital that the UK needs to have a proper aviation policy. As yet it does not. As the Chancellor acknowledged in his Budget Speech on Wednesday, the UK's economy needs to compete in both established and emerging markets. This requires excellent aviation connectivity right across the country, ensuring the UK has both vibrant point to point airports and sufficient world class hub capacity. This means prioritising a favourable planning and regulatory regime and developing a bold aviation policy, providing for new airport capacity where it is required. To ensure there is no further erosion of the UK's competitive position, the Government must set a clear commitment to such measures being put in place, as part of a new aviation policy.

"Having devolved the tricky decisions to Sir Howard Davies, his Airports Commission needs to take an holistic approach and consider wider issues, such as more competitive visa and tax regimes, efficient border operations and general airport connectivity as the quick wins on capacity have all been achieved. The Commission should not just be considering where and if to pour concrete."

**ENDS**

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#### **Notes to Editors**

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.

- In 2011, BATA members employed 73,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 129 million passengers and 1.1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The eleven BATA member airlines are: British Airways, DHL, easyJet, Flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, RVL Group, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways, Titan Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- The DfT Aviation Framework, published on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-policy-framework>