

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

26th January 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

As leaders of UK airlines, travel and tourism industries, we are writing to you seeking an urgent roadmap for the reopening of air travel and a package of support for UK aviation that recognises the urgency and scale of the danger now facing our sector.

We have consistently and fully supported the Government to do what is right in the face of this pandemic. Today the UK has some of the toughest border restrictions on international arrivals anywhere in the world. Flights are already banned from several high-risk countries, pre-departure controls mean anyone arriving in the UK has already tested negative for Covid-19, and all passengers are subject to an additional period of quarantine, with an optional second release test after five days.

However, policy should be based on evidence, and we have seen no compelling scientific evidence that introducing a policy potentially of blanket quarantine in hotels, is necessary in addition to measures only recently introduced. What is clear is the dramatic impact that restrictions – both current and should hotel quarantine be introduced – will continue to have both on UK airlines, and the wider UK economy. In the short term, an effective border closure risks impacting vital freight and PPE supplies, and jeopardising tens of thousands of jobs and the many businesses up and down the country that depend on aviation.

It is essential that a clear set of conditions are agreed allowing for the easing of all travel restrictions. This roadmap is vital for retaining consumer confidence and securing the future of UK aviation as we approach the critical summer trading period.

The Government cannot achieve its Global Britain aspirations without airlines and airports, whose existence as private enterprises cannot be taken for granted. As things stand, aviation is in danger of being one of the first sectors to close, and the last to re-open. UK airlines cannot survive a second summer season without meaningful revenue, or additional support.

This is not a matter of 'only' sacrificing summer holidays and seeing family members – critical as they are. More than 75% of arrivals to the UK come by air. As an island nation, the UK has benefited disproportionately from a thriving aviation sector, facilitating inbound tourism, foreign direct investment and trade – some 40% of the UK's trade by value outside the EU, which is mostly flown aboard passenger aircraft.

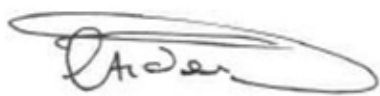
UK aviation supports 1.56 million jobs and contributes £88.8 billion of gross value to our economy including tourism, which accounts for 4.5% of UK GDP. This is now at immediate risk, with each day the UK is isolated from the world causing untold economic damage, both to the UK's essential aviation infrastructure – its airlines, airports and ground handlers - but also to those businesses that depend on the UK's connectivity within a global economy. We recognise the Government's preferred approach has been

to provide 'cross sector' support measures. However, it must be recognised that these schemes – such as £11bn worth of business rates relief – disproportionately benefit some sectors over others, many of which have been far less impacted than aviation.

With the latest lockdown, travel ban and now prospect of hotel quarantine, the time has now come for a bespoke support package that can get UK airlines through this crisis, and a roadmap out of these restrictions that draws upon the tools available now to us, including testing, working in concert with vaccine rollout at home and internationally.

We request the opportunity to discuss both an exit plan and a bespoke support package with you urgently, at a time of your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Alderslade
Chief Executive, Airlines UK



Sean Doyle
Chief Executive Officer,
British Airways



Shai Weiss
CEO, Virgin Atlantic Limited



David Burling
CEO Markets & Airlines,
TUI Group



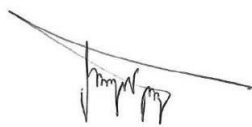
Johan Lundgren
Chief Executive Officer, easyJet



Jonathan Hinkles
Chief Executive, Loganair



Steve Heapy
Chief Executive Officer,
Jet2.com Limited &
Jet2holidays Limited



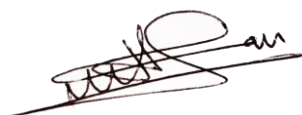
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