

## **The Government's review of aviation policy**

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

International air links are critical to the UK's economic success. Our ability to win new markets in Latin America, Asia and the Far East against fierce global competition relies heavily on our ability to fly direct and establish trade. But we have fewer weekly flights than our European rivals to seven of the eight growth economies identified by the IMF and our national hub airport – Heathrow – is full. And despite forecasting that in a little over fifteen years all of London's other major airports will also be full, Government has so far ruled out growth at any of them. This puts the UK increasingly at a competitive disadvantage.

So while we welcome the Government's review of its aviation policy, its credibility rests on examining all options to meet the vital need for more flight capacity in the short and medium term (next 15 years) as well as in the longer term. The UK needs more hub capacity to support economic growth now, not just in 20 to 30 years' time. Ruling out growth at London's major airports – and above all at our national hub, Heathrow – cannot be the right starting point.

Any growth at Heathrow would, of course, have a local environmental impact, principally through increased noise. Action can, and must, be taken to mitigate this. It may be that the review would conclude that the environmental impact would outweigh the national benefits from growth – but this option should be transparently evaluated, not arbitrarily ruled out. We therefore call on Government to include the option of expanding Heathrow in its review, alongside all others, and to make its assessment on the basis of the best available evidence. Only that way can aviation policy be put on a more rational and sustainable footing.

Yours

Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive, London First  
John Vincent, Director of Strategic Planning and Advisory, AECOM  
Jay Marciano, President and CEO, AEG Europe  
Surinder Arora, Chairman, Arora Hotels Limited  
David Tonkin, Regional Managing Director, UK, Atkins plc  
Chris Elliott, Managing Director - Barclays Infrastructure Funds, Barclays Bank plc  
Tony Pidgley, Chairman, Berkeley Group  
Chris Grigg, Chief Executive, British Land  
Mike Rake, Chairman, BT Group  
Paul Westbury, Chief Executive, Buro Happold  
Ian Durant, Chairman, Capital & Counties Properties PLC  
George Iacobescu, Chairman & Chief Executive, Canary Wharf Group PLC  
Robin Hall, Chairman, Cinven  
Stuart Fraser, Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, City of London  
Des Gunewardena, Chairman & CEO, D & D London  
Malcolm Sweeting, Senior Partner, Clifford Chance  
Mike Redican, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank AG London  
Julian Barwick, Executive Director, Development Securities PLC

Kevin Murphy, Chief Executive, ExCeL  
Mark Elborne, President & CEO, GE UK, GE  
Toby Courtauld, Chief Executive, Great Portland Estates plc  
Peter Vernon, Chief Executive - Britain & Ireland, Grosvenor  
Jonathan Scott, Senior Partner, Herbert Smith  
Ian Carter, President of Global Operations, Hilton International  
Dave White, Managing Director, ITRM  
George Kessler CBE, Group Deputy Chairman, Kesslers International Limited  
Francis Salway, Chief Executive, Land Securities  
Peter Robinson, Chairman, Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP  
Malcolm Gillies, Vice Chancellor, London Metropolitan University  
Charlie Millard, Director, Head of Office, M Moser Associates Ltd  
Mark Reynolds, Deputy Chief Executive, Mace Ltd  
Martin Roberts, Partner, Head of London Office, Pinsent Masons  
Ray Auvray, Executive Chairman, Prospects  
John Rhodes, Senior Director, Quod  
Jasminder Singh, Chairman, Radisson Edwardian Hotels  
Andrew Walters, Chief Executive, Regional Airports Limited  
Nigel Rich, CBE, Chairman, Segro  
Irvine Sellar, Chairman, Sellar  
Andreas Markides, Chairman, SKM Colin Buchanan  
Gareth Pearce, Chairman, Smith & Williamson  
Tim Hancock, Managing Director, Terence O'Rourke  
Mike Nichols, Founder and Chairman, The Nichols Group  
William McKee, Chairman, TIlfen Land  
Vincent Clancy, Chief Executive Officer, Turner & Townsend  
Malcolm Grant, President and Provost, UCL