



**We pay by far the highest flight tax in Europe
Our message to Government – we want a fair tax on flying**

Dear Chancellor,

The Government has identified tourism as one of the top five industries to drive growth. Aviation is a vital pillar of this industry and the UK economy, driving job creation and growth at home and overseas.

On behalf of the millions of passengers flying to and from the UK each year who pay billions of pounds in tax; on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people employed in travel and tourism in the UK; and on behalf of businesses at home and abroad who rely on this industry; we are asking you to make the tax on flying fairer.

We are writing to you as companies and organisations for whom aviation to and from the UK is core to our business. We are uniting behind five tests that we ask you to consider when reviewing the level of aviation taxation in your Budget:

1. Will any revision increase the overall amount travellers pay to fly to and from the UK?
2. Will any change be designed to be offset by the income from the UK's inclusion in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme?
3. Will a new approach remove the unfairness that travellers buying a premium economy ticket for a few extra inches of legroom are classed the same as first class travellers and pay double the rate of tax?
4. Will any new policy address concerns that defining bands by national capital cities creates unhelpful exceptions that are unfair to passengers and damage destinations?
5. Has the policy's impact on destinations, trade and tourism been adequately understood and considered?

Yours sincerely,



Mark Tanzer

ABTA - CEO Mark Tanzer



Darren Caplan

AOA - CEO Darren Caplan



Tracey Poggio

ANTOR - Chair Tracey Poggio



Keith Williams

BA - CEO Keith Williams



Colin Matthews

BAA - CEO Colin Matthews



Michael Carrivick

BARUK - CEO Michael Carrivick



Simon J.L. Buck

BATA - CEO Simon J.L. Buck



Paul Rankin

Blackpool Airport - Airport Director Paul Rankin



Robert Sinclair

Bristol Airport - CEO Robert Sinclair



Stewart Wingate

Gatwick Airport - CEO Stewart Wingate



Ian Doubtfire

Jet.2 - MD Ian Doubtfire



Ed Kamm

Lastminute.com - President ED Kamm



Richard Gooding

London City Airport - CEO Richard Gooding OBE



Glyn Jones

Luton Airport - MD Glyn Jones



Charles I. Cornish

Manchester Airport Group - Chairman and MD Charles Cornish



Conrad Clifford

Monarch - CEO Conrad Clifford



David Laws

Newcastle Airport - CEO David Laws



David Jessop

The Caribbean Council - MD David Jessop



Mike Greenacre

The Co-operative Travel - MD Mike Greenacre



Manny Fontenla

Thomas Cook - CEO Manny Fontenla - Novoa



Ken Robinson

Tourism Alliance - Chair Ken Robinson CBE



Peter Long

TUI Travel Plc - CEO Peter Long



Mary Rance

UK Inbound - CEO Mary Rance



Steve Ridgway

Virgin Atlantic - CEO Steve Ridgway

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