



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

020 7219 4198

31 March, 2020

Dear Grant

Bristol International Airport - Application for Designated Airport Status

I would be most grateful for your urgent consideration of this matter. In November 2019, Bristol Airport's operator contacted the Department for Transport requesting formal designation as fully "coordinated" on a permanent year-round basis from the Winter 2020/2021 season onwards.

The EU regulation, on which this application is based, requires that an airport seeking a change to its slot coordination status must commission a thorough airport capacity analysis. This analysis is designed to determine any shortfall in capacity, considering environmental constraints at the airport in question. The analysis must consider the possibilities of overcoming such shortfall through new or modified infrastructure, operational changes, or any other change, and the timeframe envisaged to resolve the problems. Importantly, it is required to be updated when there are changes at the airport influencing significantly its capacity and capacity usage.

As you may know, the operators of Bristol International Airport recently made a planning application which sought to increase the number of passengers per annum from the current limit of 10 million (still around 1 million more than the current passenger numbers) to 12 million. This was rejected by North Somerset Council, a move supported by both members of Parliament (myself and John Penrose) and all the affected Parish and Town Councils.

It seems, therefore, that the request for "coordinated" designation was made in the expectation that the increase in passenger numbers would be granted. This is not the case and, given that there is to be no change in the planning status, it would seem utterly inappropriate to change the status of the airport at this point.

There is considerable local suspicion that this is a means to ensure that there is a mechanism to increase the number of night flights without a change in planning permission being given. In any case, given that the attention of the public and the industry have been elsewhere in recent weeks, I think it is appropriate to delay

the closing date of the application from 3 April to a much later date. This will give all parties the chance to fully assess the implications of the application in an open and transparent way.

I look forward to hearing from when you have considered this urgent request. Due to the urgency of this matter, I have asked my P/A to sign this letter on my behalf and email it to you.

Yours sincerely

LIAM FOX

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