

15 August 2007

Competition Commission
BAA London Airports Inquiry
Victoria House
Southampton Row
LONDON
WC18 4AD

Dear Sirs

Leeds Bradford - London Heathrow Air Services

We understand that charges at London Heathrow are currently under review and we are writing to express concern at the likely impact on domestic air services, which are of particular importance to the business community for both domestic business visits and also international connections through London Heathrow.

We are particularly concerned about the impact of London Heathrow landing charges on the Leeds Bradford services operated by BMI, in view of their economic significance to this region. We actually need a higher frequency of service on this route and any reduction would be a serious economic disadvantage to this area.

Our understanding is that the landing charges at Heathrow do not take account of whether flights are domestic or long haul international, such that the domestic services are facing a proportionately higher burden than long haul, in relation to the average level of fares.

We believe that if the current proposed increases in charges are agreed, BMI may well reduce the frequency of the LBA-LHR service, or even withdraw the service all together. This would have serious effects for this region, as it would be difficult for alternative operators to secure suitable slots at Heathrow.

We would urge that careful consideration is taken of the very different economics of the vital short haul services between London Heathrow and the UK regions.

We must also place on record our dissatisfaction with the manner in which BAA administer London Heathrow Airport, with particular concern at the unreliable baggage handling and the excessive delays on security screening. For these and other reasons, we believe that it is wrong for BAA to have the current monopoly of airports in the South East of England and suggest that either Gatwick or Stansted should be sold off to separate operators who will then compete with BAA to offer a more cost-effective service for the South East Region.

We look forward to hearing from you as this matter is given careful consideration.

Yours faithfully

Brian L Dunsby
Chief Executive

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