

16 August 2007

Dear Sir/s,

Durham Tees Valley Airport/BMI

I understand you are currently reviewing plans to increase price caps for airlines landing at Heathrow (up to 70%) which could potentially have an impact on the commercial viability by BMI of domestic operations and an end to the link between our airport Durham Tees Valley and London Heathrow after 37 years and operating up to 5 flights per day.

We are in danger of losing our vital air link which would be disastrous for our region, especially amongst widespread business passengers who rely on Heathrow for links to other parts of the globe. We have a large chemical industry in this area and need to be seen on all the global systems that say 'If you are coming to Teesside, you can fly in from Heathrow'.

The Tees Valley is seeing significant investment from international businesses for which a link to Heathrow is an important asset. Can I express that the proposals are totally against public interest; It is the stated aim of government policy to accelerate economic growth in the North East to narrow the economic 'gap' with London and the South East, and this proposal would fly in the face of that policy. To ensure all parts Britain, including Tees Valley have good connections there is absolutely crucial.

Regards

Sue Marchant