

15 August 2007

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

Dear Sirs

Leeds Bradford – London Heathrow Service

The York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce has over 1,150 members and is the accredited chamber that represents business in the county of North Yorkshire and the city of York. As well as this representational role, we are actively involved in economic development for the sub region. One of the key issues we face in this respect is the relative lack of business air services in our area and we actively campaign to increase their frequency and the range of destinations that are available.

I am writing to you now as I understand that charges at London Heathrow are currently under review. My specific concern is in respect of charges that apply to the London Heathrow – Leeds Bradford service. This route is particularly important to business as it provides an alternative option for travel to and from London and the M4 corridor as well as connecting into the wide range of international destinations that Heathrow serves. Whilst Leeds Bradford airport lies outside our area, it provides a vital service for businesses in York and North Yorkshire and is for many their “local airport”, making it highly significant to the economy of the sub region.

York itself is undergoing substantial economic development at present. There are major schemes underway including:

- York Central – one of the largest brown field urban development sites in Europe
- BSC – the former British Sugar site to the north of the city
- Heslington East – doubling the size of the University of York
- Hungate – a mixed city centre development featuring retail, housing and new media and cultural businesses



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Arabesque House, Monks Cross Drive, Huntington, York YO32 9WU
Tel: 01904 629513 Fax: 01904 686021
www.ynycc.com Email: info@ynycc.com

Company Registration No. 2209567



- Terrys – knowledge based business premises, hospitality, retail and residential
- Coppergate 2 – office, retail and residential
- Fossbank – office, retail and residential
- Vanguard – science based business premises in the Monks Cross area

These developments will put considerable demands on the existing transport infrastructure, but in addition to that, the quality of air travel links available to us will have a direct impact on the type of businesses that we will be able to attract to the sites.

The service is also important in terms of inward tourism which forms a significant part of the York and North Yorkshire economy. The new airbus service provides a direct connection to York within the important 1 hour journey time and the airport has always been important in terms of tourism and business tourism in Harrogate.

My understanding is that the charges at Heathrow are effectively “one size fits all” and they do not take any account of the different economics applicable to a short haul domestic service on the one hand and a long haul international service on the other.

In view of the significance of the London Heathrow service to the economy of our area that I have briefly outlined above, and the likelihood that bmi may reduce frequency or withdraw the service if the current proposed increases in charges are agreed, I would urge you to be flexible in taking account of the very different economics of these vital short haul services between Heathrow and the UK regions. I would also urge you to have regard to the potential economic impact that any reduction in service would have on our sub region.

Yours faithfully

Len Cruddas
Chief Executive

cc:
Hugh Bayley MP
Anne McIntosh MP
Phil Willis MP
EJS Anderson