

16 August 2007

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

Dear Competition Commission

### **Leeds Bradford – London Heathrow air service**

I write in relation to the above and to ask that the views set out below be taken into consideration.

This is an important service of substantial benefit to Bradford, West Yorkshire and the wider geographical and economic areas. Bradford's business community, as well as other users, value the service and hope that it will continue in the future. However, I understand that the service is at risk and its termination could cause difficulties and damage to the local economy.

- I understand that landing charges at London Heathrow are currently under review.

We in Bradford are concerned that the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to charges does not and cannot take account of the both this service's economic impact in West and North Yorkshire, or the different economics that apply to operating a short-haul domestic service, against a long-haul international service.

- The fact that the operator, bmi, is to also consider withdrawing this service due to the absence of spare 'slots' increases the concerns of businesses here.

As well as providing a now-essential service to the capital from Yorkshire, bmi helps to bring in much-needed investment and tourism. The service therefore becomes important to more than just the business community, important though that is.

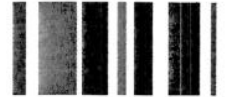
- In view of the significance of the London Heathrow service to our local, sub-regional and city-wide economy and the likelihood that bmi may reduce frequency or withdraw the service, I urge that some flexibility is introduced to take account of the different economics of vital short-haul services between Heathrow and the UK regions.

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The Heathrow service is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular from Leeds Bradford, with nearly two-thirds of passengers taking onward connections. Increasing landing charges across-the-board at the levels proposed by the Civil Aviation Authority would substantially damage the good work done by Leeds Bradford Airport's management.

I do hope that you are able to take these views into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Balbir Panesar  
President