

Our Ref: PJS/DJ
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Competition Commission
BAA London Airports Inquiry
Victoria House Southampton Row
London
WC18 4AD

Chief Executive's Office

Town Hall
Halifax
HX1 1UJ

Dear Sir/Madam

Leeds Bradford –London Heathrow Services

We understand that charges at London Heathrow are currently under review and do not take 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.

Our specific concern is in respect of the proposed increases in charges that apply to the Leeds Bradford – London Heathrow service, and the likelihood that bmi may reduce frequency or withdraw the service if the increases are agreed. This loss of services will have economic consequences, displacement effects and opportunity costs to the city region.

The "Northern Way", working to bridge the £30 Billion output gap in the Northern regions, have recently commissioned the Institute for Political and Economic Governance and the Centre for Urban Policy Studies to undertake research on the connectivity of the North. (University of Manchester, The Motors of Economic Growth: Competitiveness, Complementarity, Connectivity and Collaboration). Their interim report states that the growth belt from Leeds to Liverpool is the 'powerhouse of the northern economy' with the Leeds City Region now the second largest legal centre outside of London.

The loss of frequency or withdrawal of this service will affect the sustainable economic development of the region, decreasing inward investment, influencing the city region planning processes now in place including the development of the Horsforth-Harrogate rail line to the airport, now under way, and adding pressure to the already over heated surface access routes to Manchester Airport.

In view of the significance of the London Heathrow Service to the economy of the Leeds City Region, we urge that some flexibility in charging is introduced in order to take account of the very different economics of vital short haul services between Heathrow and the UK regions.

Yours sincerely

Paul Sheehan
Chief Executive

Councillor Ann McAllister
Leader



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