



Department
for Transport

Jeremy Quin MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Kelly Tolhurst MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: kelly.tolhurst@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/290827
Your Ref: JQ13882

26 May 2020

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2020 to the Secretary of State for Transport, raising concerns from your constituents about impact of Covid-19 on the aviation industry and financial support available. I am replying in my role as Aviation Minister.

The aviation sector plays a key role in our future as a global trading nation, as well as playing a critical role in local economies. The Government is keen to see the sector return to normal operations as soon as possible so that it can support the UK economy in bouncing back from the impact of Covid-19.

We recognise that the recent British Airways and Virgin announcements, proposing to make members of staff redundant, will be very distressing news for the airlines' employees and their families.

With this in mind we encourage all firms to draw on the unprecedented package of measures we've put in place to protect jobs and incomes, including schemes to raise capital, flexibilities with tax bills, and financial support for employees. In addition, if airlines find themselves in trouble as a result of coronavirus and have exhausted the measures already available to them, then the Government has been clear it is prepared to enter discussions with individual companies seeking bespoke support as a last resort.

In considering such requests we will look at a number of factors including whether the business makes a material contribution to the economic activity of the UK, the importance of maintaining a thriving competitive aviation sector in the UK to deliver connectivity and the equitable and fair treatment across businesses in the sector. Any intervention would need to represent value for money for taxpayers.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you for raising these concerns with me.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kelly Tolhurst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KELLY TOLHURST MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY