

HENRY SMITH MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing as a group of cross-party parliamentarians urging you to take action in support of our aviation, travel and tourism industries following the re-introduction of significant Covid-19 restrictions on international travel.

As you are aware, the aviation, travel and tourism sectors have been among the worst affected by the pandemic and only began their path to recovery last month after almost two years of restrictions, bans, and expensive testing costs kept passenger numbers at historically low levels.

The reintroduction of restrictions has effectively all but grounded aviation once again, severely damaged consumer confidence and for a second year in a row prevented family reunions at Christmas. There is no doubt whatsoever that these restrictions will not only set back aviation, travel, and tourism's ability to recover from the pandemic, but that they will put jobs, businesses and communities at risk.

It is simply unacceptable that these restrictions have been brought in with no additional financial support to protect jobs, businesses and the communities who depend on a thriving aviation sector.

We must never forget that these restrictions bring with them not only economic damage, but real human impacts, and the Government needs in the coming days to bring forward a full package of financial support measures that provides support to all businesses impacted by these restrictions and protects the over a million jobs dependent on aviation, travel, and tourism.

Alongside this, we urge you to get control of testing, ensuring that their costs are kept made free or at least capped, bringing international travel more in line with all other parts of our economy and society. We must avoid the profiteering that we saw throughout the summer alongside the emergence of rogue test providers who promised much but failed to deliver.

Above all, we ask you to set out how and when these damaging measures will be lifted, which we urge to be as soon as possible, given we know travel measures increasingly make little difference once a variant is established. We simply cannot afford to keep these restrictions in place for a day longer than is necessary.

After almost two years of restrictions and historically low passenger numbers, our aviation, travel, and tourism sectors once again find themselves facing an uncertain future.

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A failure to protect them now by setting out how and when these restrictions will be lifted risk leaving these vital industries a shadow of their former selves and set back our national recovery. The risks are simply too high for a sector already battered by the pandemic, and we urge you to take action in the coming days.

Yours sincerely



**Henry Smith**  
**Member of Parliament for Crawley**  
**Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Future of Aviation**

**Sir Graham Brady, Member of Parliament for Altrincham & Sale West**

**Rt Hon Julian Smith CBE, Member of Parliament for Skipton & Ripon**

**Steve Baker, Member of Parliament for Wycombe**

**Crispin Blunt, Member of Parliament for Reigate**

**Peter Bone, Member of Parliament for Wellingborough**

**Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw, Member of Parliament for Exeter**

**Allan Dorans, Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock**

**Richard Drax, Member of Parliament for South Dorset**

**Margaret Ferrier, Member of Parliament for Rutherglen & Hamilton West**

**Yvonne Fovargue, Member of Parliament for Makerfield**

**Sir Roger Gale, Member of Parliament for North Thanet**

**Chris Green, Member of Parliament for Bolton West**

**Kevin Hollinrake, Member of Parliament for Thirsk & Malton**

**Emma Lewell-Buck, Member of Parliament for South Shields**

**Jonathan Lord, Member of Parliament for Woking**

**Damien Moore, Member of Parliament for Southport**

**Anne Marie Morris, Member of Parliament for Newton Abbot**

**Gavin Newlands, Member of Parliament for Paisley & Renfrewshire North**

**Laurence Robertson, Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury**

**Andrew Rosindell, Member of Parliament for Romford**

**Greg Smith, Member of Parliament for Buckingham**

**Dr Ben Spencer, Member of Parliament for Runnymede & Weybridge**

**Rt Hon Valerie Vaz, Member of Parliament for Walsall South**

**Sammy Wilson, Member of Parliament for East Antrim**

**Lord Bowness**

**Lord Campbell of Pittenweem**

**Lord Dodds of Duncairn**

**Baroness Foster of Oxton**

**Baroness Harris of Richmond**

**Baroness Randerson**

**Baroness Verma**