

## HENRY SMITH MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Liz Truss MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Prime Minister

Congratulations on your appointment. We are writing to you as a group of cross-party parliamentarians to urge you to make the continued recovery of the UK's aviation, travel and tourism sectors a priority for the new Government.

As you will know, our aviation and travel industry is a key driver of economic growth contributing £92 billion to the UK economy pre-pandemic and connects families across the globe as well as providing much needed holidays and cultural experiences.

During Covid-19, these industries were amongst the most affected with passenger numbers falling to historically low levels, with aviation grounded and then hit by continuing and changing restrictions. As these businesses were among the first hit and last to have restrictions lifted, the consequences of the pandemic continue to be felt and hold back both aviation's recovery and our economic recovery.

The summer travel season has shown positive signs of recovery, with strong passenger numbers, families enjoying much needed breaks, and avoiding the challenges previously seen during the Easter holiday period. However, it is vital that the Government build on this progress and ensure we have a fully recovered and vibrant aviation and travel industry without which the ambitions of Global Britain, namely championing our values, reinvesting our global relationships, and maximising trade opportunities on the world stage, will all remain effectively grounded.

We urge you to provide the following support to provide the sector with the support that it needs to tackle the current challenges and boost its recovery:

1. **Give specific responsibility for overseeing the cross-government approach to international travel policy to an individual Minister**
2. **Introduce minimum staffing levels for Border Force at UK airports**
3. **Confirm commitment to the Jet Zero Strategy and put in place levels of price stability to attract investment and new entrants to the market**
4. **Work with partners to create an international travel toolkit to be prepared for future crises**
5. **Work with industry to put in place a long-term skills strategy to support jobs in aviation, travel, tourism and sustainable aviation**

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We look forward to discussing these issues further with your Ministerial team and on how the Government can work more closely with the aviation, travel, and tourism sectors to support this vital sector moving forward.

Yours sincerely



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

**Caroline Ansell, Member of Parliament for Eastbourne**  
**Sir Peter Bottomley, Member of Parliament for Worthing West**  
**Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw, Member of Parliament for Exeter**  
**Alan Brown, Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock & Loudoun**  
**Fiona Bruce, Member of Parliament for Congleton**  
**Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham**  
**Rt Hon Stephen Crabb, Member of Parliament for Preseli Pembrokeshire**  
**Mims Davies, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex**  
**Allan Dorans, Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock**  
**Richard Drax, Member of Parliament for South Dorset**  
**Michael Fabricant, Member of Parliament for Lichfield**  
**Stephen Farry, Member of Parliament for North Down**  
**Margaret Ferrier, Member of Parliament for Rutherglen & Hamilton West**  
**Nick Fletcher, Member of Parliament for Don Valley**  
**Sir Roger Gale, Member of Parliament for North Thanet**  
**Patricia Gibson, Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire & Arran**  
**Wera Hobhouse, Member of Parliament for Bath**  
**Christine Jardine, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West**  
**Pauline Latham, Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire**  
**Emma Lewell-Buck, Member of Parliament for South Shields**  
**Jonathan Lord, Member of Parliament for Woking**  
**Tim Loughton, Member of Parliament for East Worthing & Shoreham**  
**Ian Paisley, Member of Parliament for North Antrim**  
**Rob Roberts, Member of Parliament for Delyn**  
**Andrew Rosindell, Member of Parliament for Romford**  
**Gary Sambrook, Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield**  
**Rt Hon John Spellar, Member of Parliament for Warley**  
**Richard Thomson, Member of Parliament for Gordon**  
**Rt Hon Valerie Vaz, Member of Parliament for Walsall South**  
**Dr Philippa Whitford, Member of Parliament for Central Ayrshire**  
**Rt Hon Sammy Wilson, Member of Parliament for East Antrim**  
**Baroness Altmann**

**Lord Balfe**

**Lord Blunkett**

**Lord Browne of Belmont**

**Lord Campbell of Pittenweem**

**Lord Dholakia**

**Baroness Doocey**

**Lord Eames**

**Baroness Eaton**

**Lord Fink**

**Baroness Foster of Oxton**

**Lord Gilbert of Panteg**

**Lord Goddard of Stockport**

**Baroness Goudie**

**Baroness Harris of Richmond**

**Lord Haworth**

**Lord Loomba**

**Baroness Masham of Ilton**

**Baroness Neville-Jones**

**Lord Northbrook**

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

**Lord Truscott**

**Baroness Verma**