



LEEDS BRADFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Leeds Bradford International Airport
Leeds
LS19 7TU

31 August 2007

Mr P Freeman
Chairman
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
LONDON
WC1B 4AD

Dear Sir

I understand that charges at London Heathrow are currently under review. The particular concern of my Committee is in respect of charges to be applied to the BMI Leeds Bradford service. The economic significance of that service to the Region is extremely important.

In order to do business involving intercontinental flights, fast access to LHR from the regions is imperative. Suppliers in the South East are already advantaged by their proximity to LHR and LGW. Suppliers from the North are already disadvantaged by the time that it takes them to commute to LHR or LGW – and the cost of doing so.

It is understood that the charges at Heathrow are effectively "one size fits all". That takes no account of the different economics applicable to short haul domestic on the one hand and long haul international on the other.

In view of the significance to the economy of this Region of the BMI London Heathrow service, its withdrawal is likely to be hugely damaging to exports and a severe disincentive to inward investment in the Region.

In view of the likelihood that BMI may reduce frequency or withdraw the service altogether if the current proposed increases in London Heathrow charges are agreed, I would urge that some degree of flexibility is introduced so as to protect vital shorthaul services between London Heathrow and the Regions.





Of all routes flown from this airport, my Committee wished this service alone to be protected by Public Service Obligation (PSO). Unfortunately, the fallacious definition of PSO precludes this; specifically, measurement of the time taken between Leeds Centre and London City by land is required. Whereas, the appropriate measurement should be the time taken to reach Heathrow by land. Had that been the definition, a PSO Order would certainly have been pursued.

Yours faithfully

Michael C Goodwin
Chairman of Leeds Bradford International Airport
Consultative Committee

