



Leeds Chamber

IN BUSINESS FOR LEEDS

Competition Commission
BAA London Airports Inquiry
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC18 4AD

10 August 2007

Dear Sirs

The future of the Leeds Bradford-London Heathrow airline operated by bmi.

I writing on behalf of Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry to express the views of the business community on the above key air link.

For information, Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) is one of the oldest established chambers in the UK, is by some margin the largest private sector business representation organisation within the city of Leeds and has in its membership over 2000 businesses of all sizes and from all sectors. LCCI's primary aim is to focus upon the continued economic success of Leeds and as such plays a very active role in the future development of the city and surrounding area.

In 2006 approximately 150,000 people used the service between Leeds Bradford and London Heathrow. CAA statistics show that around 65% take onward connections to destinations beyond Heathrow, whilst the majority of the rest use the service to pursue business in the M4 corridor. The service is Leeds Bradford's 3rd most heavily used, after Dublin and Amsterdam. Most of those using the service do so for business purposes.

The service is of vital importance to the economy of the Leeds City Region. Its importance arises primarily from the opportunity to connect to the 241 international destinations served from London Heathrow. In this context we know that the service is significant not just for the business communities in Leeds and Bradford but also in many other ways, for example in terms of inward tourism to the region and in supporting events and exhibitions at the Harrogate Conference Centre.

I am aware of the commercial pressures you face, linked to the potential opportunities available to bmi through "open-sky" developments. **My purpose in writing is to urge you to take account of the importance of the Leeds Bradford-London Heathrow air link in your current deliberations and specifically to appeal to you to continue to operate this service.**

I do hope that you will consider the above points and I would thank you accordingly. Meanwhile, if you would like to clarify any of the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Richard Mansell
Chief Executive

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