



PHIL WILLIS M.P.
HARROGATE AND KNARESBOROUGH

ASHDOWN HOUSE, 75 STATION PARADE
HARROGATE HG1 1ST

13 August 2007

Our ref: GPW/ck

Dear Mr Stanley,

LEEDS BRADFORD – LONDON HEATHROW AIR SERVICE

The air service which operates between Leeds Bradford and London Heathrow is used primarily by Yorkshire businesses, with approximately 150,000 people using the service in 2006. 65% of passengers take onward connections to destinations beyond Heathrow.

I understand that a review of landing charges is currently underway and that the proposal is increase charges by more than 70% over the next 5 years. In addition the charges will be unrelated to the length of the incoming flight and so will impact disproportionately on short haul flights.

Such significant increases in landing charges will not just impose an additional financial burden on Yorkshire businesses, they will inevitably lead to a reduced service. Rail services for business from Leeds to London are already virtually at capacity and do not provide the essential onward link to overseas destinations that is so vital to our regional economy.

Could I please ask you that when consideration is given to the CAA's submission on landing charges that consideration is giving to introducing some flexibility that will take account of the needs of local businesses and the economy of this region?

Phil Willis MP

Mr Martin Stanley
Chief Executive
Competition Commission
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