

NP/jcc/538
13th May 2008



Ms Estelle Harvey
Inquiry Co-ordinator
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

Dear Ms Harvey

Ref: Stansted Quinquennial Review

We welcome your invitation to comment on the Stansted Quinquennial review.

Peel Airports Limited is the largest UK owned private sector airport group that is currently operative in the UK. Peel Airports Limited operates the regional airports of Durham Tees Valley, Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield and Liverpool John Lennon Airport, as well as City Airport Manchester.

Peel Airports have no direct involvement in the operations of Stansted Airport nor are we served by any direct service to Stansted Airport.

Therefore, we believe that we are not in a position to provide any specific comments or information relevant to the inquiry and trust you will understand our view on this. However, we do encourage Inquiry officials to be mindful of the need to encourage competition between airports and to be mindful that UK ownership of our country's airports assets is now at an all time low and the UK needs may be better secured by more UK private sector ownership in our industry.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our interest in the recent decision made by the Secretary of Transport, Ruth Kelly, calling for a full review of the economic regulation of the UK airport system due to the potential shortcomings of the current regulatory system. It is vital that our airports, particularly our price sensitive regional airports, are economically sustainable at a time of rising costs and rising taxation.

In addition, we also welcome and encourage free market competition amongst independent ex-BAA airports in the UK; however, we do support continued price regulation of the BAA airports in order to safeguard the interest of the public and all users of the airports as an interim measure until the CC completes its ongoing investigation in the BAA and reaches its final decision on the future of the BAA airports.

Yours sincerely

 **Neil Pakey**
Deputy CEO