

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

23 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing collectively as representatives of the organisations that will be most affected by the Government's newly announced 14-day quarantine for air passengers arriving into the UK.

We fully support the Government's commitment to public health and we are committed to playing our role to achieve this. At the same time, we have serious reservations about a blanket approach to all arrivals, irrespective of where passengers are originating from. This approach will have serious consequences for the UK's tourism & hospitality industries, and any sector of the economy which relies on air connectivity for their supply chains, recruitment and exports.

Rather, we ask Government to immediately look towards a more targeted, risk-based approach to screening of passengers, as happens with aviation security standards today. The Transport Secretary referenced the concept of "air bridges" in Parliament this week – a measure that would enable travel to countries which share commonality in country-wide health measures, screening standards in travel and /or low rates of transmission.

This proposal must be seen as a crucial step in the right direction. It would ensure we align with low-risk trading and tourism destinations right across the world, while shielding the public from high-risk countries. This approach is already being considered between Australia and New Zealand, and just this week, we saw Greece signal its intent to welcome back UK visitors from June. Europe's largest economy Germany has also said it intends to reopen its borders in less than a month.

We urgently ask the Government to set out how it will move to a more targeted approach, such as "air bridges", which would see the controlled reestablishment of air routes and overseas travel, where it is safe to do so, and as soon as possible to any low-risk country. The alternative risks major damage to the arteries of UK trade with key industry supply chains, whilst pushing the UK to the back of the queue as states begin conversations for opening up their borders.

Yours sincerely,

- Andy Offer, Director, 2Excel
- Johan Lundgren, CEO, EasyJet
- Steve Heapy, CEO, Jet2.com
- Jonathan Hinkles, CEO, Loganair
- Kenton Jarvis, CEO, TUI Aviation
- Shai Weiss, CEO, Virgin Atlantic
- Tim Alderslade, CEO, Airlines UK
- Simon McNamara, UK & Ireland Country Manager, IATA
- Dale Keller, CEO, BAR UK
- Jason Holt, CEO, Swissport
- Paul Everitt, CEO, ADS
- Karen Dee, CEO, Airport Operators Association
- Jasmine Whitbread, Chief Executive, London First
- Craig Beaumont, External Affairs Director, Federation of Small Businesses

- Dr. Adam Marshall, Director General, British Chambers of Commerce
- Ben Fletcher, Executive Director, Make UK
- Kate Nicholls, CEO, UK Hospitality
- Joss Croft, CEO, UK Inbound
- Tom Jenkins, CEO, European Tourism Association
- Bernard Donoghue, Director, The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions
- Ray Newton, Adviser to the Chairman, Edwardian Hotels London
- Peter Hogg, UK Cities Director, Arcadis
- Emma Degg, Chief Executive, The North West Business Leadership Team
- Professor Sir Paul Curran, President, City, University of London
- Steve Phillips, Chair, English UK
- Emma English, British Education Travel Association
- Ian Taylor, Global Aviation Lead, ARUP
- Andrew Jones, Cities Programme Lead, AECOM
- David Camp, Chief Executive, Association of Labour Providers
- Tom Hadley, Director of Policy & Campaigns, Recruitment & Employment Confederation
- Kurt Janson, Director, Tourism Alliance

Cc:

Rt. Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport

Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary

Rt. Hon Alok Sharma, Business Secretary