



Usdaw

community
For a better working world



Back Heathrow
Barley Mow Centre
10 Barley Mow Passage
London W4 4PH
tel: 020 3071 0048
email: parmjitdhanda@backheathrow.org

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

12th January 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Please act now to save UK aviation jobs at Heathrow

We are writing to you about the crisis in the UK's aviation industry and the impact it is having on jobs for tens of thousands of local people. We are asking you to take urgent, meaningful action to help now before it is too late.

The unions do not always see eye to eye with Heathrow Airport, but we have a shared common interest – the health of the UK's biggest single site employer and its supply chain.

Before the pandemic struck, millions of passengers passed through Heathrow every year along with huge amounts of cargo, making it the UK's biggest port by value. The national lockdowns and ongoing Covid restrictions have contributed to passenger traffic collapsing to record lows with December 83% below the same period in 2019.

A key area where we believe you can help is Heathrow's business rate burden, which remains a massive £120m a year. Recent Government measures provided a 100% business rates waiver for companies like the big supermarkets, whilst Heathrow was given a reduction of just 7%. Now we understand that the supermarkets are giving at least £1.4bn of this money back to the government – less than one-tenth of this would help Heathrow survive the present crisis, save countless local businesses, and thousands of jobs. We urge you to use this money as a lifeline for everyone who depends on Heathrow for their livelihoods and protect the future of our airport.

continued overleaf>>

continued>>

Whilst we urge you to provide a 100% business rate waiver to Heathrow, we would urge you to also incorporate caveats to ensure the funds are only spent after a dialogue with trade unions to ensure it protects staff at the airport and its supply chain.

Businesses that rely on Heathrow, workers that rely on a regular wage packet, and communities that rely on both are at a tipping point. Airports in Scotland and Northern Ireland have received a 100% waiver for their business rates. We believe the country's largest aviation community - surrounding Heathrow - deserves equal treatment.

Please act now and save the jobs and businesses that rely on aviation. We look forward to your reply.

Your sincerely,



Parmjit Dhanda
Executive Director
Back Heathrow



Tony Warr
Regional Secretary
GMB London



Roy Rickhuss
General Secretary
Community



Paddy Lillis
General Secretary
USDAW