



British Air Transport Association

Media Release

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Air Tax Increase – Gordon’s Greedy, Not Green

Commenting upon the increase in Air Passenger Duty (APD) for those flying from today (1 February), Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of the British Air Transport Association (BATA) said:

“Just eight weeks ago, the Chancellor announced the doubling of this tax on the travelling public, motivated by the need to boost his green credentials and fill up his coffers.

Rushed through in less than 40 working days, this has resulted in major confusion for everyone involved – both airlines and passengers and has placed a totally unprecedented and unwarranted burden on operators. His actions have even been called into question by the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee.

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People flying from the UK are paying their environmental costs in full. The least Gordon Brown can do is to clearly explain how and where he is planning to spend the £2 billion a year he is now getting from them in this greedy tax grab. ”

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Notes to Editors

- 1) BATA represents UK registered airlines covering the scheduled, charter and freight sectors. Its members account for 85% of UK airline output.
- 2) For more information and to arrange interviews contact Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General on 07767 660 658 or 020 7222 9494 or Neal Weston, Head of Policy and Communications on 07855 736 487.
- 3) Roger Wiltshire, BATA Secretary General, will be available for interviews on Wednesday 31 January and the morning of 1 February.
- 4) Gordon Brown in his Pre Budget Report on 6 December 2006, announced that APD will be doubled for those travelling from 1 February 2007. The increases will mean a minimum tax for a domestic or European flight of £10. Flights in business class will incur a £20 tax. For flights outside Europe, economy travel will incur a tax of £40 with APD on premium travel rising to £80.
- 5) There has previously been a minimum of seven months' notice given of changes to APD, since its introduction was announced in November 1993.