



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

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For Immediate Use**

Flight Tax Costs UK 25,000 Jobs

On the eve of closure of a consultation by HM Treasury on Air Passenger Duty, the British Air Transport Association, the national trade body for British airlines, has called for the UK's tax on flying to be scrapped.

Simon Buck, Chief Executive of BATA said:

“Britain has the highest taxes on flying in the world with a family of four paying at least £240 in tax on a sunshine holiday to Florida for example. Next April, the Chancellor is planning to increase these rates even further - by twice the rate of inflation. The tax is due to raise more from air passengers than the tax on the banks over the next five years.

Not only is this extortionate rate of tax punishing families, it also makes Britain a less attractive place to do business or for foreign tourists to visit. Tourism is Britain's third largest export earner and is worth over £90billion to the UK economy each year. Around 75% of tourists visit Britain by air but this Government seems oblivious to the damage the high tax is causing.

The numbers of passengers travelling through Britain's airports is at its lowest level for 7 years. This is why we are today calling for the tax on flying to be scrapped. A number of other European countries, such as Ireland and Holland, are doing similarly and have either scrapped or are scrapping their taxes on flying because they recognise the damage such taxes have on tourism in their countries. Without the drag of the highest taxes on flying in the world, the UK would enjoy a much needed boost in tourist numbers that would help kick start the faltering British economy and ultimately prove far more beneficial for British jobs and investment than would a blunt tax on flying. If the tax was scrapped, UK tourism earnings would be boosted by over £1 billion per year and 25,000 jobs would be created.”

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Notes to Editors

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- In 2010, BATA members employed over 71,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 119 million passengers and 1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The eleven BATA member airlines are: Air Southwest, bmi, British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- Figures for impact of APD on jobs and tourism earnings sourced from:
Tourism Alliance, 'Tourism for Growth', 2011
http://www.tourismalliance.com/downloads/TA_294_327.pdf

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