



Media Release

Immediate Use

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“It’s because it’s full!”

In advance of the debate on Heathrow to be held tomorrow in the House of Commons, the British Air Transport Association (BATA) is urging MPs to support the national need for increased runway capacity. In a statement, BATA said:

“Heathrow, the country’s main international transport hub is full.

“It’s full – and has been for years. No new runways have been built in the South East of England since the Second World War, over 60 years ago.

“It’s full – and that has adverse implications for the travelling public. Aircraft queue to take off and queue to land. The slightest problem such as bad weather can cause severe delays and cancellations.

“It’s full – and has to compete with airports in Europe and elsewhere. These other airports have built new runways over the last few years, meaning Heathrow is now at a major competitive disadvantage. Without more runway capacity, the competitors will continue grow at the expense of Heathrow and the UK. Jobs are at risk if capacity cannot be increased.

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“It’s full – but we can increase capacity and keep within the strict environmental limits that have been set. The aviation industry is investing heavily in new technology as the latest new aircraft like the Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 are demonstrating.

“It’s full – but increasing capacity won’t be funded by the taxpayer. The airline industry will fund Heathrow’s expansion as it does for all of its other infrastructure and running costs.”

ENDS

Contacts

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Notes to Editors

1) BATA

Represents UK-registered airlines and the 10 BATA members represent around 85% of UK airline output and operated 70% of the UK commercial aircraft fleet in 2007

2) Commons Debate

The General Debate, ‘Adding Capacity to Heathrow’ will take place in the House of Commons main chamber at about 3.30pm tomorrow, Tuesday 11 November.