



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

**Date of Issue: 4th November 2010
For Immediate Use**

Airlines Hit Out At Air Traffic Control Cost Increases

Airlines using BAA Scottish airports today hit out at price hikes of up to 20% for air navigation services provided by NATS.

Commenting, Simon Buck, chief executive of the British Air Transport Association, said:

“Increases of this magnitude are totally unacceptable at a time of significant retrenchment for many airlines. The increases are especially difficult to swallow given that they follow on from a more than doubling of the price of ATC services at Glasgow and very large rises at Edinburgh and Aberdeen over the previous five years. We call on NATS urgently to review the level of these increases and for the airports to look at other options for the services such as a re-tender or self-supply.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- BAA currently owns and operates three airports in Scotland (Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen)

- NATS, (in the form of NATS Services Limited, or NSL) provides air traffic services at most of the UK's major airports, including all six owned by BAA. NSL intends to impose very large price increases for these air traffic services on some major UK airports, particularly in Scotland, which will be passed through to the airlines that operate from those airports. The proposed increases in charges are 20% at Glasgow and Aberdeen and 15% at Edinburgh and follow on from a more than doubling of prices at Glasgow and significant increases at Edinburgh and Aberdeen over the prior five years.

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