

The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

30 March 2020

Dear Chancellor,

RE: Business Rates Relief

Following on from our letter dated 26 March 2020, regarding your support measures for aviation in light of the COVID-19 epidemic, I wish to draw your attention to the Scottish Government's decision to include airports in its business rate relief.

We noted in our letter that the Business Rates Holiday for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure in England was not open to airports, as they fall outside the eligible business categories, nor to the businesses that run the concessions in airports, such as airport retail and airport bars and restaurants, as they operate within an airport and do not have rateable properties. We were delighted that the Scottish Government announced it will be providing Business Rates relief to airports in Scotland, as per Section 4 of the *Business Rates in The Non-Domestic Rates (Coronavirus Reliefs) (Scotland) Regulations 2020*. I have attached the regulations for ease of reference.

In light of this excellent news for airports in Scotland, it is vital that any support measures apply across all airports in the UK. Even as we see passenger numbers dwindling and aeroplanes grounded, airports are continuing to provide critical services to UK businesses and communities. They do so in all four of the UK home nations and they should be able to operate on a level playing field, including on business rates relief.

We urge the Treasury to look at Business Rates relief for airports in England and work with the devolved administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that we have parity across the UK. This should be a fundamental part of the aviation support package we called for in our letter dated 26 March.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Dee
Chief Executive
Airport Operators Association



Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith
Chair
Airport Operators Association

- *CC The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport*
- *Cc the Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy*
- *Cc the Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government*