

Emerging Thinking

Dear Sir Howard

ABTA was pleased to hear your 7 October speech on Emerging Thinking and wishes to express support for your provisional conclusion, from analysis of the four arguments, that the UK will need some net additional capacity in the South-East of England in the coming decades.

People value highly the ability to travel abroad for business, leisure and to visit friends and relatives and this is likely to grow. ABTA was particularly pleased to hear you mention the importance of leisure aviation in your speech. Airlines will choose to fly from the airports that best meet the needs of their passengers in turn meaning future demand at the UK's busiest airports will continue to grow in excess of capacity.

We agree that a mechanism for managing the carbon impacts of aviation will be needed if the UK is to achieve its statutory carbon targets.

ABTA looks forward to working with the Airports Commission in the coming months.

Kind regards

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ABTA - The Travel Association

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