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13 November 2014

Consultation on the appraisal process for start-up aid for airports with less than 3 million passengers per annum

I am writing to invite you to respond to the Department for Transport's consultation on the appraisal process for start-up aid for airports with less than 3 million passengers per annum. The consultation proposes fourteen questions (see annex) on the process and criteria that airports and airlines will need to follow to apply for start-up aid. The consultation will start on the 13 November 2014 and run for four weeks until the 11 December.

I have also included for information the Protocol that the Department has submitted to the European Commission. It provides a framework of rules and guidance that a route promoter would need to comply with in order to be considered compliant for the provision of start-up aid under the European Commission aviation state aid guidelines for airports and airlines¹. Upon clearance of this Protocol by the Commission, the UK Government can award aid in respect to routes from airports handling fewer than 3 million passengers per annum without further notification.

Airports with between 3 to 5 million passengers

The European Commission guidelines also allow for start-up aid to be provided for new routes from airports of between 3-5 million passengers per annum in "duly substantiated cases". Airports who meet this criteria and believe they have potential new routes which would be suitable for funding should contact the Department to discuss the scheme.

Yours sincerely,



¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:099:FULL&from=EN>

ANNEX

Question 1

Do you believe that a consortium of an airport and airline is the most suitable model, and should devolved or regional bodies be involved?

Question 2

Does the timetable set out in Table 1.1 allow sufficient time to provide the necessary evidence?

Question 3

Is there any information that you think would be difficult to supply?

Question 4

Is there any information that you think would be useful to supply that has not been listed?

Question 5

Do you agree a ten year appraisal period is suitable, if not how long would you propose?

Question 6

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing frequency, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 7

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing business centre links, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 8

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing business target market, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 9

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing connectivity, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 10

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing tourism impact, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 11

Do you agree with the scoring system for direct employment generated, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 12

Do you agree with the scoring system for assessing social impact, if not what changes would you like to see?

Question 13

Are there any other criteria you believe should be included as part of the appraisal process?

Question 14

Are there any other issues you would like to raise in response to the appraisal process?