



**From the Secretary of State**

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16 May 2012

**Directing the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) under section 40(9)  
Airports Act 1986.**

Following my announcement today, I am writing to direct the CAA under section 40(9) of the Airports Act 1986 to not make references to the Competition Commission in respect of mandatory airport charges conditions for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

My decisions follow consideration of respondents' evidence to the informal consultation that took place between 19 January and 29 February 2012 on whether the Competition Commission reference should remain in place for the review of the next regulatory settlement (beginning 1 April 2014). I also considered your advice set out in my predecessor's letter to you dated 14 March 2011, as well as CAA's letter dated 12 April 2012.

My reasons are set out in my Written Ministerial Statement and letter to stakeholders published on the Department's website today. In the interests of transparency, I also intend to publish this letter on the website.

Finally, I wanted to thank you for the advice you provided to the informal consultation as well as your continued support for the Civil Aviation Bill. The Bill has made good progress through the House of Commons and I expect this to continue in the House of Lords, for Royal Assent to be achieved in the timeframe necessary to deliver the new system.

[signed]

**JUSTINE GREENING**