



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 7614 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Huw Merriman MP
Chair
Transport Committee
House of Commons
London

22 May 2020

Dear Huw

I am writing to refer a petition to your Committee.

This petition, which has received over 100,000 signatures, calls for the Government to support the British aviation industry during the COVID-19 outbreak. The full petition is attached to this letter.

Normally we would schedule a debate in Westminster Hall on any petition that receives over 100,000 signatures. These debates enable Members of the Committee to present the concerns of petitioners directly to Ministers for response. However, as sittings in Westminster Hall have been suspended, we are currently unable to schedule debates on petitions receiving over 100,000 signatures.

We have picked up issues raised by many petitions in a series of evidence sessions, and in correspondence with Ministers, but it is not possible for us to investigate the issues raised by every petition that secures 100,000 signatures, of which there have been 22 since our website reopened in March.

I know that your Committee is conducting an inquiry into the impact of coronavirus on transport, and recently heard from representatives of the aviation sector, senior public officials and the aviation minister, so felt the most effective way to represent the concerns shared by the 100,000 people who have signed this petition would be to refer it to your Committee.

I am therefore asking that, as you consider what recommendations to make to the Government on this important matter, you consider the concerns expressed and request made by this petition, in addition to the evidence you have received directly. Your Committee can help give a voice to the tens of thousands of people who have signed this petition, and want to see action taken by the Government to support the aviation sector.

In addition to referring this petition to your Committee, I also wanted to request that, if you hold any further evidence sessions on the impact of coronavirus on the aviation sector, your Committee consider inviting a member of my Committee to attend, so that we are able to represent the views of petitioners directly.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee

e-petition 303081

Support the British aviation industry during the COVID-19 outbreak

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak there are travel bans imposed by many countries, there is a disastrous potential impact on our Aviation Industry. Without the Government's help there could be an unprecedented crisis, with thousands of jobs under threat.

Unite, the UK's largest union, has devised a plan which it believes the Government must adopt to ensure the industry survives:

<https://unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2020/march/coronavirus-government-must-act-now-to-protect-aviation-jobs/>

This calls on the Government to help cover workers' pay, extend loans to the aviation industry, delay payment of taxes and duties, and support routes through public subsidy. Our UK Government should take action to save the British Aviation Industry.