

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

3 September 2020

Rachel Maclean MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
LONDON SW1P 4DR

**Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/648 of 13 May 2020 on  
vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to  
reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services in the  
context of the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Committee have asked me to thank you for your letter of 15 July 2020 on the above listed document. We note the Government's announcement of 18 July that the ATOL scheme will be extended to cover cancelled package holidays with a flight element. The Committee views this as an important step towards addressing the concerns of consumers. This having been said, our understanding of the Government's announcement is that flights booked directly with operators—and not as part of a package holiday—will not be covered. We request urgent clarification on this point and, if the Government has decided not to cover vouchers for directly booked flights, an explanation as to why.

We request a response to this letter within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull and Christopher Johnson in the Lords; Huw Merriman MP, Chairman of the Transport Committee and Marek Kubala, Clerk of the Transport Committee; Les Saunders at the Cabinet Office; and to Margaret Browne, Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

**CHAIR**