



Transport Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Dear John,

Thank you once again for coming to give oral evidence to us on 6 May. Your valuable insight provided great assistance to us during our inquiry. I am writing on behalf of the Transport Committee to request information about the financial health of Heathrow Airport and the decisions you have needed to take to ensure the business survives, especially the airport's restructure.

My colleagues and I on the Committee are conscious that the new national lockdown adds further pressure on our country's struggling aviation industry. Heathrow Airport, as the UK's largest airport, is strategically important not only to our aviation sector, but the entire UK economy. You told us in May Heathrow was "burning through £200m" every single month, but that your cash position would allow the airport to "survive without going bankrupt for about a year." However, you mentioned at the time that you were not sure if this would be long enough.

We would be grateful if you could write to us with:

- an update on your current financial position and a summary of the airport's financial health before the crisis.
- an outline of the impact the pandemic continues to have on Heathrow Airport.
- the steps you have taken to ensure the business survives and the reasons why these choices were necessary, including in relation to staffing, and whether this amounts to the concept commonly known as 'fire and rehire'.
- details of your engagement with local communities about the pandemic's impact on the airport and the changes you are making.
- an outline of how the Government can assist you in future.

As a Committee we are keen to ensure our aviation sector recovers from pandemic and are eagerly waiting the Government's aviation recovery plan, which was promised for this autumn. The information we have requested will help us with any follow-up work we do into the aviation industry.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Merriman MP, Chair of the Transport Committee