



Department  
for Transport

Lord Goldsmith  
International Agreements Committee  
Committee Office  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Robert Courts MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [robert.courts@dft.gov.uk](mailto:robert.courts@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

**By email**

18 May 2021

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

**Scrutiny of international agreements: Air Services Agreement with Norway**

I refer to your Committee's 7<sup>th</sup> Report of Session 2019-21, published on 19 March, about our new bilateral Air Services Agreement with Norway.

The report raised three issues about the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) that accompanied the Air Services Agreement (ASA) for the purpose of Parliamentary scrutiny.

I am grateful for your Committee's comments, in paragraph 5, on explaining the rights available in the new ASA and will ensure that future EMs are clearer in this respect. The Government's opening approach in all negotiations on new post-exit ASAs is to seek to replicate the traffic rights that had been available to the UK as an EU/EEA Member State, including cabotage rights where applicable.

If that is not achievable, as in this instance, we seek to agree the maximum traffic rights possible. Officials regularly provide information to the airline industry on request, about the content of existing ASAs and those under negotiation.

Paragraph 14 of your Committee's report referred to the inclusion of information about significant issues of concern raised by the Devolved Administrations. I confirm that no such concerns were raised with respect to the new UK/Norway ASA and future EMs will include that confirmation.

Regarding the Committee's request for sight of amendments to treaties detailed in paragraph 10, the Government agrees that it is important to have a complete and up-to-date record of the treaties to which the UK is a party, and so the FCDO is working with departments to ensure that all amendments to treaties are published in the UK's Treaty Series, including those that are not subject to the requirements of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Courts', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Robert' and the last name 'Courts' clearly distinguishable.

**ROBERT COURTS MP**

**MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY**