



Transport Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 3266 Email: transcom@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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10 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to clarify several questions about the Government's traffic light system for international travel. It is imperative that the public has clarity on how to determine safe options for travel.

The Global Travel Taskforce Report created a new traffic light system for international travel, to which different restrictions are applied to countries depending on risk. The Report stated that assessment of risk would "likely" be based on factors such as the level of community transmission of variants of concern, levels of testing, genomic sequencing and reporting. The Report also stated that the Government will introduce a Green Watchlist, intended to support travellers as they book international travel to help identify countries' risk of moving from green to amber.

The Committee previously concluded that the Global Travel Taskforce Report contained insufficient detail to allow businesses to prepare for, and travellers to engage in, the planned safe restart of international travel. With travellers and industry still uncertain about the decision-making process used to determine whether countries are classified as "red", "amber" or "green", I am seeking to clarify the following questions about the traffic light system:

- Will the Government publish the minuted decisions it makes when moving countries between the "red", "amber" and "green" lists, as well as the criteria used to reach these decisions?
- When will a Green Watchlist be introduced to accompany the traffic light system for international travel?
- Under what conditions will a country be moved straight from the green list to the amber list without being placed on the Green Watchlist?
- Is it your recommendation that United Kingdom residents do not travel abroad? If so, for how long will this recommendation be in place for and what factors will lead to this recommendation being altered?
- Will the Government commit to providing sector specific support to the travel and aviation industries if there is no significant expansion of the green list to include popular travel destinations by the 28 June formal review period?
- Bearing in mind that the Government has effectively prevented the travel and aviation industries from functioning, will the Government commit to extending the furlough scheme for the travel and aviation industries until the beginning of the summer 2022 travel season (April 2022)?
- Will the Government commit to publishing individual assessments of countries' coronavirus risk level by 28 June and subsequent review periods?



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- The Secretary of State for Health said that “a variant that undermined the vaccine fundamentally would put us in a much more difficult place as a country, and that is why we are being as cautious as we are”. If an unknown risk is the benchmark for reopening international travel, we will never be able to resume regular operations. In order to provide transparency, will the Government commit to publishing a public health milestone (for example, when all people aged 50 and older and the clinically vulnerable have been offered two vaccinations) against which (a) quarantine requirements and (b) testing requirements will be removed?

I would be grateful if you could provide the answers to the questions above by Monday 28 June. To support the aviation and travel sectors and Global Britain, it is imperative that the Government addresses concerns about the predictability and transparency of the traffic light system for international travel.

Best wishes

Huw Merriman

Chair of the Transport Committee