

Parliamentary Bulletin
12-18 May 2012

Government News	House of Commons Questions
<p>14 May 2012 - Peers urge ministers to back Heathrow third runway Lord Tugendhat and former aviation minister, Lord Spicer both warned of the economic consequences of refusing to expand airport capacity. Labour peer Lord Soley also said a third runway would cost the public nothing and "add about £8 billion to the GDP of this country".</p>	<p>Air passenger duty effect on inhibiting business access in Northern Ireland - McDonnell, A - 16 May 2012 Expansion of Belfast Airport and air links to Belfast - Syms, R - 16 May 2012 Reduction of air passenger duty in Northern Ireland - Shannon, J - 16 May 2012</p>
<p>15 May 2012 - Government accused of lack of vision by aviation experts The UK government's lack of strategy and long-term planning for the country's aviation infrastructure has been criticised by a panel of senior aviation experts at the Guild of Travel Management Companies (GTMC) conference.</p>	<p>House of Lords Questions Publication of the consultation on aviation policy - Lord Spicer, 14 May 2012 Estimated revenue generated by a transit flight into London airports and their associated costs - Lord Laird - 15 May 2012</p>
<p>15 May 2012 - Business leaders demand meeting with Prime Minister over aviation strategy In an open letter signed by representatives from the British Air Transport Association, the Board of Airline Representatives, London and Regional Properties, the Tourism Alliance, and the Travel Weekly Group, the business executives have demanded a meeting about the government's failure to establish a viable aviation strategy.</p>	<p>House of Commons Statements 16 May 2012 – Justine Greening (Secretary of State for Transport) Mandatory airport charges conditions for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports The Civil Aviation Bill is proposing to remove the Competition Commission reference from the price review process permanently and replace it with a licensing and appeals regime. This will enable proportionate and accountable regulation, and will give airlines and airports a new right of appeal which the aviation sector have not had before. A published letter to industry setting out Ms Greening's response to the issues raised in the informal consultation between 19 January and 29 February 2012 can be found here.</p>
<p>15 May 2012 - Pilots infringing Olympics Restricted and Prohibited security airspace zones to have licences suspended Licences of all pilots infringing either the Restricted or Prohibited Zone will be suspended pending an investigation of the incident</p>	<p>15 May 2012 - Theresa Villiers (Transport Minister) Operational freedoms at Heathrow Airport The trial will not increase the number of flights at Heathrow which remains capped at current levels. The CAA has published its final report on phase one, alongside a report by BAA, assessing the impact on operations at the airport and on communities around Heathrow. Following advice from the CAA, a six month extension of phase two has been agreed and will now run from July 2012 to March 2013.</p>
<p>17 May 2012 - Boris Johnson warns the Government not support Heathrow expansion London Mayor Boris Johnson warned the Government faced, "the most terrific shock and waste an awful lot of time." If Heathrow expansion went ahead.</p>	<p>Westminster Committees 16 May 2012 - Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Aviation links between Belfast and Heathrow. The Committee heard from Luke Pollard, Head of Public Affairs, Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) and Doreen McKenzie, Proprietor, Knock Travel. 16 May 2012 - Northern Ireland Affairs Committee - Air travel in Northern Ireland. The Committee heard from Nigel Smyth, Director, Confederation of British Industry Northern Ireland and Matt Sheldon, Senior Policy Advisor, Confederation of British Industry.</p>
<p>Aviation All-Party Parliamentary Group 16 May 2012 - First Oral Evidence Session of the Inquiry witnesses: The Group heard from Andy Meany, Oxera; Kyran Hanks, Gatwick Airport; Mark Tanzer, Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA); Tom King, British Airways (BA); Ian Jopson, Sustain 17 May 2012 – MPs ask industry for 'solid data' on air passenger duty and Heathrow, MPs tell industry Aviation-supporting MPs in the All-Party Aviation Group have told the industry it needs to provide solid data on the effects of Air Passenger Duty (APD) and capacity constraints at Heathrow if they are to influence the government.</p>	
<p>SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates Thursday 14 June 2012 The Aviation Minister, Theresa Villiers, shall be attending. Friday 9 November 2012 and Friday 1 March 2013 - between 11am and 1pm - Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ (map) - lunch provided afterwards.</p>	