UK PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY: SMALLER AIRPORTS

On 10th July the Transport Select Committee of the UK Parliament’s House of Commons (lower house) announced an inquiry into smaller airports (those with fewer than five million passengers per annum). As well as general issues affecting smaller airports, the Committee is particularly interested in receiving evidence on:

- the strategic importance of smaller airports and the extent to which smaller airports meet the needs of regional economies and provide efficient and effective services for the local communities in which they sit, and their impact on regional economic development and regeneration

- the steps the Government is taking or could take to support smaller airports and aid diversification to ensure their longer-term viability

- the effect of current local, regional, national and EU policy and regulations on the future of smaller airports, including policy on (a) air passenger duty, (b) route subsidies (e.g. use of public service obligations to maintain particular routes and other state aid, the Regional Air Connectivity Fund, etc.) and (c) housing and enterprise zones

- issues around competitiveness, rationalisation and commercial viability affecting smaller airports, including the importance of smaller airports in serving niche leisure and business markets and flight training and education (general aviation) and providing dedicated capacity for cargo services, and the role that partners and airlines play in the delivery of such services

- the role of local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in ensuring smaller airports improve connectivity.

The UK Parliament’s Commons Transport Committee has invited written submissions by Friday 3rd October 2014. These may be submitted through www.parliament.uk Search “Transport Committee” then “Inquiries” followed by “Smaller airports”

Picture caption

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