

c/o British Air Transport Association
Artillery House
11-19 Artillery Row
London
SW1P 1RT

Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Monday 30 June 2008

Dear Home Secretary,

Inclusion of UK Aviation in Proposed National ID Card Scheme

Following your announcement on 6th March this year, our representatives have participated in various meetings and briefings arranged by the IPS team. These meetings have done little to address the fundamental concerns that many of us expressed when we first heard of the proposal to require staff with airside passes to enrol in the National ID Card scheme, so we are now writing to you to express our joint and determined opposition to the proposal.

First and foremost, no additional security benefits have been identified. Indeed, there is a real risk that enrolment in the National ID scheme will be seen to provide an added, but ultimately false, sense of security to our processes.

The proposal also adds extra processes, costs and risks to an already comprehensive system of identity and record checks used in the recruitment of airside workers at UK airports. Airside staff are already the subject of extremely thorough vetting and criminal records checks and the proposal does not improve or replace these existing requirements. It is therefore very difficult to reconcile the perceived need to compel them to have the national ID Card.

The mandatory nature of your proposal conflicts with previous Government statements which have stressed that it would not be compulsory to carry a National ID card. This supports our view that the UK aviation industry is being used for political purposes on a project which has questionable public support.

The UK aviation industry continues to work with the Home Office on a wide variety of initiatives (such as e-Borders) which are adding financial burdens and inconvenience to companies and their customers, but without any compensatory benefits. One example is the more rigorous immigration checks whose introduction has been accompanied by insufficient resources and consequently much longer queues at UK airports.

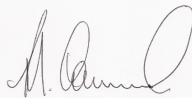
We believe most strongly that the enrolment of airside workers in the National ID Scheme is an unnecessary and unjustified extra initiative and that the priority for Government attention should be the improved efficiency of border processes which would result in a more reliable operation and better levels of service for the traveling public.

We would urge you to reverse the decision to compel airport airside workers to enrol in the National ID Card Scheme. This letter is being copied to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Yours sincerely



Jim McAuslan, General Secretary, BALPA



Mike Carrivick, Chief Executive, BAR UK



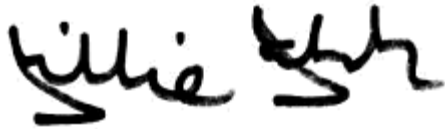
Danny Bernstein, Chairman, BATA



Joe Kelly, Managing Director, Birmingham Airport



Nigel Turner, Chief Executive, bmi



Willie Walsh, Chief Executive, British Airways



Andy Harrison, Chief Executive, easyJet



Iain Cochrane, Group GM Operations, Infratil Airports Europe Ltd



Peter Brown, Chief Executive, Monarch Airlines



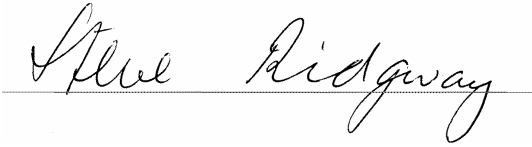
Frank Pullman, Managing Director, Thomas Cook Airlines



Glyn Jones, Managing Director Luton Airport, TBI Group

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Browne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chris Browne, Chief Executive, Thomsonfly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Ridgway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Steve Ridgway, Chief Executive, Virgin Atlantic

Phil Aird-Mash, Chief Executive Officer, XL UK