



**Sarah Owen MP**  
Member of Parliament for Luton North

Rt Hon Rushi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Treasury  
By email [CEU.Enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:CEU.Enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Rishi

**Protecting aviation jobs through coronavirus**

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to support the aviation industry and the workers in the sector who are currently facing redundancy during the ongoing global pandemic.

Aviation and travel are key industries in Luton, with easyJet alone currently employing around 2,700 people in the town including 350 pilots, 650 cabin crew, 300 in engineering and maintenance and the remaining 1,400 office and management staff. Around 25% of the company's total workforce live in Luton itself. British Airways, which also employs a number of my constituents, has also announced far reaching redundancies. These companies are household names and are staples of the British aviation industry.

In a response to a Written Question (56181), the Exchequer Secretary admitted that “some firms will be affected by coronavirus for longer than others, and the Government will seek to support these firms appropriately.” I urge you and the Transport Secretary to come to the House and spell out your plans to support these firms and their employees whose jobs are currently at risk.

It is essential that a new bespoke, sector-wide, crisis support plan and package for aviation is put in place urgently, and I believe that the following conditions must be attached to companies:

- Jobs and salaries must be protected, with a commitment to workers' rights
- Any company in receipt of public money must ensure their tax base is in the UK
- No dividends should be paid until the company is proven to be commercially viable
- A commitment to pay UK based suppliers as a priority
- A clear commitment to tackling climate change and for the industry to use cleaner fuels and other cutting-edge low or zero emission technologies.
- All companies in receipt of government support must fully comply, without delay, with all consumer right regulations - particularly with regards to giving full refunds.

Furthermore, I also urge you to consider a sector-specific extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) for airline workers beyond its planned October end date, to save as many staff from redundancy as possible by allowing time for the sector to begin its recovery later in the year.



The sector's need for certainty is incredibly urgent, but it is not yet too late. I am happy to consider working constructively with the government to defend as many Luton jobs as possible.

I am hopeful that you will look upon the needs of the aviation sector and the people who work in it favourably, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Owen'.

**Sarah Owen MP**

Member of Parliament for Luton North

*cc: Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, by email  
[Transport.Secretary@dft.gov.uk](mailto:Transport.Secretary@dft.gov.uk)*