

Sent by email

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

18 January 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

We have today launched a new economy-wide coalition which believes strongly in the business case for international travel and its role in a rapid recovery for the UK. We are writing to you given the importance of international travel to the whole economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributing to economic growth in every nation and region of the UK. This is not simply about holidays, it is about the UK as a destination for inbound visitors, students, businesses, and investors.

The group, comprised of companies across many sectors of the economy, has two clear objectives, which we would like to work with you on. The first is to support London regaining its place as the leading European city for international travel, acting as a gateway to the whole UK, and the second is to put the city and the UK on a path to being a global leader in sustainable international travel.

In the short-term, 2022 is a critical year for economic recovery and for renewing the UK's place in the world. We welcome the recent removal of the emergency additional testing requirements and red list that were introduced when Omicron emerged. But for international travel to play its full part in the recovery, its restrictions must be reviewed alongside domestic ones later this month, which is why we are calling for three key actions:

(1) We know much more today than we did two years ago about Covid and now need a clear and transparent playbook for any future restrictions to international travel, including when action will be considered, the evidence base and criteria that will be used, and what the proportionate actions are in different scenarios. This will enable businesses across the economy to plan ahead. This should also include clarity on the support that will be available if restrictions must be re-imposed.

(2) We welcome the Government's acknowledgement that travel restrictions are no longer of benefit in slowing the rate of transmission of Omicron. As we head toward



the spring and learn to live with this virus, it is critical to re-establish the principle of restriction-free travel (at least for fully vaccinated passengers) with no tests and no PLF. It should be clear that this is the end goal for all travellers as we learn to live alongside covid. This necessitates a worldwide, collaborative approach to agree a set of global standards that are concise and applied by all.

(3) Whilst restrictions on international travel remain in place, these should be minimised. This means cost-effective, reduced testing requirements (preferably available from the NHS as with domestic activities) and a simplified Passenger Locator Form.

Longer-term, we see huge potential for the capital to act as a global leader in sustainable travel, which would both support the government's Jet Zero strategy and wider net zero goals and necessitate a nationwide network of highly skilled, high-quality jobs that would level up regional economies across the UK. These are long-term objectives that require immediate attention as we recover, and as such it is vital that the forthcoming review of international travel is holistic and looks to the longer-term. We need a transparent, consistent, and predictable framework in place that gives the industry the stability it needs to continue its investment in both sustainability and economic growth.

We hope that our coalition can be a helpful partner in this process, and indeed on the government's longer-term ambitions for an economically strong, net zero, Global Britain.

Yours sincerely,

John Dickie, Chief Executive, London First
Tim Alderslade, Chief Executive, Airlines UK
Paul Barnes, Chief Executive, Association of International Retail
Brian Bickell, Chief Executive, Shaftesbury
Simon Bimpson, UK Country Director, Arcadis
Nick Crossfield, Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Alstom
Dyan Crowther, CEO, High Speed 1
Bill D'Arcy, CEO, BAI Communications
Jacques Damas, CEO, Eurostar International Ltd
Lynn Dobbs, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive, London Metropolitan University
Ruth Duston OBE, OC, MD Primera Corporation – Cheapside Business Alliance, Aldgate Connect BID, EC Partnership and Fleet Street Quarter Partnership; and CEO South Westminster Business Alliance
Jodie Gray, Chief Executive, English UK
Des Gunewardena, Chairman and CEO, D&D London

Alexander Jan, Chair, Central District Alliance
Gerald Kaye, Chief Executive, Helical
Mark Kildea, Chief Executive, The Howard deWalden Estate
Ros Morgan, Chief Executive, Heart of London Business Alliance
Nigel Milton, Chief of Staff and Carbon, Heathrow Airport
Simon Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, Battersea Power Station
Development Company
Colette O'Shea, Chief Operating Officer, Landsec
Michael Payton, Chairman, Clyde & Co
Judy Raper, CEO and Dean, TEDI London
James Raynor, Chief Executive, Grosvenor Property UK
Jeremy Rees, Chief Executive Officer, ExCel
John Rhodes OBE, Founder and Board Director, Quod
Chris Rumfitt, Founder & Chief Executive, Field Consulting
Basil Scarsella, Chief Executive Officer, UK Power Networks
Hugh Seaborn, Chief Executive, Cadogan
Robert Sinclair, Chief Executive, City Airport
Turancan Salur, Regional General Manager, Europe, Getir
Jace Tyrrell, CEO, New West End Company
William Wilson, CEO, Siemens Mobility Limited
Stewart Wingate, CEO, Gatwick Airport

CC: Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture,
Media and Sport
Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy
and Industrial Strategy
Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer