



## **Devolution should result in a fairer air tax for all**

**07 September 2015** – In its response to the HM Treasury Discussion Paper on options for supporting English Regional Airports from the impacts of Air Passenger Duty devolution, BAR UK states that the Government has a unique opportunity to review APD to create a fairer air tax for the whole of the UK.

The organisation, representing over 70 airlines, highlights that it is the negative economic impacts of the highest tax of its kind in the world that is driving devolved bodies to consider slashing, or abolishing, APD to gain a competitive advantage for their regions. The current Government clearly recognises that it inherited a deeply flawed air tax and has made small steps to improve fairness, but tinkering is no solution to the challenges posed by tax devolution.

Dale Keller, chief executive of BAR UK said "The Government's priority should be to grasp this opportunity to finally resolve the fundamental economic, competitiveness and fairness issues of APD for consumers and businesses, rather than give serious consideration to the three half-baked proposals to assist English regional airports with differential rates of air tax, as presented in the Treasury's current APD Discussion Paper.

"Why should flying from one UK airport or region cost more in tax than another? With Scotland's commitment to halve APD by 50% and potentially abolish it altogether, now is the time for the UK Government to take the lead and abolish, or significantly reduce, APD for the benefit of the entire UK."

- Ends -

### **Notes to Editors**

The Board of Airline Representatives in the UK (BAR UK) presents the widest international voice of the airline industry; representing over 70 scheduled airlines in the UK in their dealings with government, government departments, regulators and airport operators.

Full details can be found on [www.bar-uk.org](http://www.bar-uk.org)

### **For further information contact:**

Dale Keller  
Chief Executive  
BAR UK Ltd  
Mobile: 07740 174 815  
E-mail: [dale.keller@bar-uk.org](mailto:dale.keller@bar-uk.org)

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