



## **BAR UK responds to Draft Airports National Policy Statement**

**25 May 2017:** The Board of Airline Representatives in the UK (BAR UK), representing 70 airlines, has today submitted its response to the Government's Draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS).

Commenting on the airline community response, Dale Keller, chief executive of BAR UK said "Today marks another important milestone in the long process to achieve a bigger, better and more affordable Heathrow. Airlines have shown widespread support for the Government's preferred option of a new Northwest runway at Heathrow in their response, but conditional to the selected scheme being affordable to airlines and passengers. BAR UK has called for the NPS to insist upon flat or lower charges in order that the world's most expensive major hub airport can become more competitive globally. Only the right combination of increased capacity, airspace reform, better surface transport connections, and lower charges, will enable airlines to deliver the full economic benefits of expansion in the national interest.

"Airlines also point out the need for the NPS to allow more flexibility during the consultation process in order that overly prescriptive assessment principles, including runway length and terminal location, do not preclude new initiatives put forward by airlines, communities and scheme promoters, which could result in a better final scheme."

- Ends -

### **Notes to Editors**

The Board of Airline Representatives in the UK (BAR UK) presents the widest international voice of the airline industry; representing 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)

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