Aviation will be critical to the UK’s economic recovery post COVID-19. Without Heathrow, Britain’s only hub airport, there will be no recovery. Chambers of Commerce and businesses in west London feel compelled to remind our MPs and council leaders that they must act now to support our airport, or we will all suffer the long-term consequence.

Government doesn’t seem to appreciate the importance of aviation to businesses and local jobs. Remember, Heathrow is the:

* **UK’s biggest port**
* **UK’s biggest rate payer**
* **UK’s biggest single site employer**
* **UK’s biggest manufacturing port for business and**
* **The biggest employer in West London, with over 100,000 jobs in the local supply chain**

Airports and airlines are seriously concerned that the government’s plan to impose a 14-day quarantine on people arriving in Britain risks worsening the economic impact of Covid-19. It may be a necessary temporary measure to rebuild passenger confidence, but it’s hard to enforce and a huge knock to the leisure and tourism industry, by effectively closing the UK’s borders. Passenger numbers at Heathrow are down by 97%. The majority of cargo is carried in passenger aircraft, so trade is damaged too.

The government should act speedily to set up a Common International Standard for health screening at airports. Quarantine is not a long-term answer.

Our businesses are united in the fear that the UK aviation industry is facing an abyss. We need you to back business, back local jobs, and back Heathrow. Without decisive action west London will bear the brunt of the job losses and economic pain.

The Government has provided support to other industries, and if it is serious about kick-starting the UK economy, it must act now to support the UK’s aviation industry. Without a thriving Heathrow all of our businesses will suffer.

Yours Sincerely,