

Dear Member of Parliament,

I'm writing to you regarding the GMB's campaign to protect and save local jobs in the aviation industry at all London and East of England Airports.

As someone who works at _____ airport, employed by _____ my life has been turned upside down since the crisis hit my industry. Please tell you MP if you have been made redundant, had a new less favourable contract imposed on you or you are working reduced hours. Describe how the loss or change of/to your job will affect income, your prospects, your family and your future.)

The UK has the 3rd largest aviation network in the world. The Aviation sector has a turnover of over 60 billion and contributes 22 billion to our GDP, almost 1 million UK jobs are directly or indirectly supported by it. Aviation forms part of the UK's critical infrastructure and needs to be protected from all forms of negative economic impact. The lack of direct action from the government in the form of a support package to protect our member's livelihoods beggar's belief.

We have all seen the disgraceful behaviour of British Airways who will be cutting 12,000 jobs and decimating terms and conditions by imposing inferior contracts to those employees who remain with the company. We may see many more employers following the same route, taking advantage of this crisis by making unnecessary redundancies and attacking terms and conditions of its employees. This must be challenged and stopped and unscrupulous employers have to be brought to task.

However, there are those aviation employers at London and East of England Airports that are now in the process of preparing to issue Section 188 (Redundancy Consultation Notices) even though the Governments Job Retention Scheme has been extended to October. Airlines and contractors within the supply chain are now saying that they cannot sustain financial losses due to the Airports only running on a heavily reduced capacity and small flight schedules.

But it's not just about job losses and employers; our regional economy is heavily dependent on our airport. The supply chain includes taxi drivers, hospitality and retail. The knock-on effect of our regional airports not getting the support it needs to survive will be devastating and once this crisis is over and flights are resuming and as they do, Aviation employers will need workers to hit the ground running and to retain skills that have been so much heavily invested in as specialist Airport workers.

We need MP's and councillors to support the GMB's "save our London Airports" and jobs campaign #SaveOurAviatonIndustry is a priority and we would like to hear from you on how your council and local MP's is supporting London and East of England Airports and Aviation industry to protect and safeguard jobs.

I would like to request a virtual meeting with you so you can hear directly my concerns for the future and the impact this crisis has had on me, my job and my family. How are going to save my job, what are you going to do about saving jobs at the Airports.

GMB Union London has developed 6 Key Asks. I'm calling on you to support our plan to save jobs and airports.

The 6 key 'asks' I would like you to call on government to adopt and implement are:

1. To extend the 80% furlough scheme for 12 months for workers in the aviation industry but with the possibility to 'taper' where necessary.
2. For government to recognise the vital role aviation workers have played in ensuring food and medical supplies have still entered the country and to commit to supporting the aviation sector in its hour of need through an economic package that helps both airports and the wider supply chain to survive without redundancies.
3. Any state aid to come with 'strings attached' to protect workers and create a greener industry. State aid discussions should not take place behind closed doors; trade unions should be involved in those negotiations too and powerful airlines should not be at the front of the queue (the supply chain and regional airports are just as important).
4. For Health and Safety reps to be involved at all stages of the risk assessment process and ensure appropriate levels of PPE are provided without delay to ALL aviation staff.
5. For the government stop playing populist politics which put our members' jobs at risk - no 14-day self-quarantine without the science to back it up. Ministers must stop publicly talking down the tourism industry
6. That the government will continue to work with and meet with the unions representing all transport workers to ensure front line transport workers' voices are brought to the fore.

GMB's key asks are expanded on here: gmb.org.London/aviation-strategy

I look forward to hearing from you and hope we can set up a meeting soon.

Many thanks

GMB member, London Region