May 2020

Thank you for contacting me about British Airways and COVID-19.

I completely understand this is an uncertain and worrying time for British Airways staff and their families.

As you know the Government allowed airlines to make full use of the unprecedented support made available to assist with wages and financing. Support is on offer through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Time to Pay scheme, the Bank of England’s Covid Corporate Financing Facility etc.

We’ve also taken action to help airlines specifically in dealing with the financial pressures they are currently facing. For instance, the UK voted in favour of giving airlines the ability to defer payment of charges for European air navigation services for February-May 2020 for 14 months. Given that in February alone the UK’s ten largest airlines would have been expected to pay a total of £47.2 million for flights in European airspace, this deferral should go some way to help airlines manage their current financial burdens.

As a Minister in the Department for Transport I know we have been in contact with British Airways regarding their position. Rest assured that I am also monitoring the situation very closely and listening to the views of those here in our constituency and convey all concerns raised with me to my Departmental colleagues.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**