



Department  
for Transport

Iain Stewart MP  
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From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

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Our Ref: MC/440334

3 January 2024

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your email of 19 December enclosing correspondence from your constituents about banning private jets and their environmental concerns.

It is critical that the aviation sector plays its part in delivering the UK's net zero commitment and the government is already supporting a variety of technology, fuel, and market-based measures to address aviation emissions.

On 20 July 2023, the Department for Transport published a 'Jet Zero Strategy One Year On' report highlighting the progress and achievements that have been made since the launch of the strategy, which sets out the government's approach to delivering net zero UK aviation by 2050. The report is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-strategy-one-year-on/](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-strategy-one-year-on/).

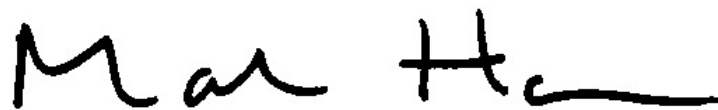
Our aim is to preserve the ability of people to fly whilst supporting consumers to make sustainable aviation travel choices. Analysis in the Jet Zero Strategy shows that the aviation sector can achieve net zero without the government needing to intervene directly to limit aviation growth. Focusing on new fuels and technology will not only help us to achieve our net zero targets, but it will also have economic and social benefits without limiting demand.

The Department for Transport recently commissioned independent research to establish a baseline of carbon emissions emitted by the General Aviation sector, which includes private jets. Officials are considering next steps in how to utilise data from the report to support policy development and undertake measures to further support the decarbonisation of the sector. For example, the Department continues to explore alternative fuels for GA aircraft to reduce their environmental impact.

Turning to the points around Air Passenger Duty (APD), this is a HM Treasury policy and its primary purpose is to ensure that the aviation sector contributes to public finances. Following a review of APD, and as announced at Budget 2021, from 1 April 2023 the government introduced a package of APD reforms. This package of reforms included a new reduced domestic band to support regional connectivity, and the introduction of a new ultra-long-haul band to align APD more closely with our environmental objectives. The new reduced domestic rate applies to all flights between airports in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but excludes private jets, which will remain subject to the Higher Rate. Unlike certain international counterparts, some of the nations and regions of the UK are separated by sea and therefore aviation has a critical role to play in facilitating the necessary links across our Union.

More widely, we are keen to encourage the sector to investigate and adopt new greener measures while learning best practice from across aviation and wider transport modes. The government will continue to offer guidance on regulation, policy developments and strategic direction.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Harper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**