



Department  
for Transport

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Robert Courts MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [robert.courts@dft.gov.uk](mailto:robert.courts@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

**Sent by email**

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Dear Colleague,

### **Launch of the Global Travel Taskforce**

I am writing to you following the opening plenary session on Thursday 15 October to launch the Global Travel Taskforce. The plenary was the latest in a series of meetings I have held with representatives in the aviation and maritime sectors, as others have with those in the international rail sector. I and my colleagues have heard your concerns and the creation of the Taskforce constitutes a significant step forward in the recovery of international travel during this challenging situation.

We heard from both the Secretaries of State for Transport and Health and Social Care on their ambitions for the Taskforce, especially in relation to testing. This includes the prospect of international testing pilots that will explore the possibility of pre-departure isolation and testing. We had an informative presentation from Dr Nick Gent from Public Health England about the modelling that both SAGE and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have approved. We know this modelling has been subject to some lively debate; as the Secretary of State for Transport made clear it is modelling the Government stands firmly behind.

We also heard from Minister Adams from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) who set out the positions of our international partners on border measures and testing. As many of you have set out, we need a global standard for testing. The UK will show leadership on this and once a successful model is established we will seek to ensure that it is implemented across the globe.

As explained by Rannia Leontaridi, Director of Aviation, the Taskforce will comprise four workstreams:

- finalising plans for implementation of “test and release”;
- international pilots for pre-departure self-isolation and testing and international comparisons;

- non-testing based measures to encourage international travel and inbound tourism; and
- evidence gathering and engagement.

I know that you will all be keen to be involved and input into the Taskforce's work and I want to hear all of your views and suggested solutions. The Department for Transport will be hosting a series of workshops to look at barriers to travel, non-testing mitigations and implementation of testing. The FCDO and I will be hosting two workshops with international partners to help us better understand what is going on abroad, while the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will host a workshop to gather ideas on how we return business travellers and tourists to our cities.

We will maintain the pace of this work and the programme for the workshops in the next couple of weeks will therefore be as follows.

22 October	<b>Tourism &amp; Local Business – DCMS</b> Restarting international travel Engagement and communications
23 October	<b>Travel Industry Day of Workshops – DfT</b> Restarting international travel
26/27 October	<b>International workshop – FCDO / DfT</b> Bilateral testing pilots
28 October	<b>Travel Industry Day of Workshops – DfT</b> Bilateral testing pilots Restarting international travel Test and release scheme

We will work with organisations directly and through your sectoral trade associations to ensure as many of you as possible are able to participate in these workshops.

I have heard your calls for pace and I know that we have lots of work to do. We are and always have been a proudly global nation. I will do everything I can to see the international travel and tourism sectors get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



**ROBERT COURTS MP**

**MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY**