



The Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

London, 17th February 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Firstly, let me acknowledge and recognise your leadership and determination to protect lives and stop the spread of COVID-19 as we emerge from the ravages of the pandemic. I would like to applaud the tremendous progress made by your government, to lead the world with its comprehensive vaccine rollout across the country, together with a highly targeted community testing programme.

As the global body representing Travel & Tourism's private sector, our mission and objective is to work closely with governments around the world and ensure they are equipped with the very latest data and research from which they can make critical decisions.

According to our data, in 2019 the Travel & Tourism sector contributed 9% of UK GDP and was responsible for 11% of total UK employment. However, the continuing and punishing impact of the COVID-19 crisis has left 2.4 million Travel & Tourism jobs impacted in the UK.

Despite all the efforts made by your government to stop COVID-19 in its tracks, the UK Travel & Tourism sector is still in a fight for survival and without a **clear strategy** to remove barriers to travel and restore international mobility, the economic and social damage could be irreparable, and the sector could face complete collapse.

The time to make those critical decisions has never been so important, not only for the UK, but for the world.

Ahead of the upcoming 'route map' out of the coronavirus lockdown and plans to ease the restrictions on February 22, I am writing to propose four key principles which we urge you to consider. They are based on WTTC's global view and assessment of best practices around the world, in order to save thousands of travel businesses and SME's across the ecosystem that depend on our sector, and the many millions of livelihoods at risk. We believe that **only** these actions will save Travel & Tourism, while effectively managing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting public health.

CHAIRMAN

Christopher J Nassetta
Hilton

PRESIDENT & CEO

Gloria Guevara Manzo
World Travel & Tourism Council

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We call on the government to consider the following recommendations and implement a clear exit strategy from the present restrictions to safely restore mobility:

1. An international coordinated approach, led by the UK, including public and private collaboration, to establish an **international mobility framework** to allow the safe movement of people and remove restrictions such as blanket quarantines, hotel-based requirements and travel bans.
2. Shift to individual traveller risk assessments instead of country risk assessments, to avoid importing and exporting the virus through robust testing, supported by technology, such as digital health passes, virus detectors and contact tracing systems, to ensure a seamless experience.
3. Reinforce health & hygiene protocols, including mandatory mask wearing, in addition to the vaccination roll out, as part of an integral solution.
4. Continued support for the sector, including, fiscal, liquidity and worker protection, with a clear strategy to resume economic activity and provide consistency and certainty, in addition to promoting the importance of the sector.

Together, the four principles will help restore a sector which will be key to aiding economic recovery and saving thousands of jobs, and many more livelihoods throughout the UK; and enable you to build back a better Britain.

A comprehensive testing regime for travellers will certainly be more cost-effective in the long term than the devastating effect of lockdowns and extended quarantines.

Additionally, our extensive consultation with WTTC Members and governments around the world, has made clear there is strong and determined opposition to air corridors. According to their concerns, the UK is in danger of 'burning bridges' with overseas governments looking to agree trade and other deals in the post-Brexit period and putting the UK in a competitive disadvantage.

The strong feedback WTTC has received is that these deals will be more challenging to achieve if travel corridors are used once again this summer. They are not the answer and have created great uncertainty for countries, consumers, airlines, and travel agents up and down the country, causing more problems than they have offered solutions, hence why we are calling on shifting the focus to an individual traveller risk assessment, irrespective of their departure country, using Britain's leading practices and technologies in border security.

We believe that only together we can overcome this crisis. Through your government's vaccine rollout, you are showing the world how it can be done,

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and we ask that you offer the same leadership, focus and determination to restore international mobility.

We are grateful for your leadership in these difficult times and we stand ready to continue working with you in whichever way we can, to overcome the present challenges.

Best regards,

Gloria Guevara Manzo
President & CEO

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