

Dear Sir/Madam,

15 APR 2009

STANSTED G2 PUBLIC INQUIRY


I refer to my letter of 2 March in which I made public the recommendations of the Inspector on the proposed timetable for the G2 public inquiry, set out the reasons for my decision to delay the formal announcement of the inquiry timetable, and confirmed that the inquiry would not start on 15 April, as was originally scheduled. A copy of my letter is attached.

As I am sure you are aware, the Competition Commission's (CC) final report on BAA airports (*A report on the supply of airport services by BAA in the UK*) was published on Thursday 19 March. BAA have advised me that they need to give full and careful consideration to their formal response to the CC's final report, and that this exercise will not be complete until around the middle of May.

In order that my decision is taken in the light of the fullest available information and taking into account all parties' views, I now hope to make an announcement on the start date for the inquiry by no later than the end of May. I will, however, continue to review the position and the timing of my announcement between now and then, in the light of developments including, in particular, the BAA response to the CC report. I have also received a number of representations from stakeholders regarding the inquiry timetable and will consider these carefully before coming to my decision.

I accept that this continuing delay will mean a slightly longer period of uncertainty for interested parties and I am keen to ensure that this uncertainty is kept to a minimum. As set out in my previous letter, I remain committed to ensuring that there will be a minimum of 8 weeks notice between my formal announcement and the start date of the inquiry.

A copy of this letter will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate website and can be viewed at <http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stanstedg2inquiry/index.htm>.



HAZEL BLEARS