



## Chief Executive's Office

Baroness Vere of Norbiton  
Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Security  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Via Email: Baroness.Vere\_PUSS@dft.gov.uk

5 October 2023

Dear Baroness Vere

### **Air Travel Organiser's Licencing ('ATOL') scheme enforcement powers**

Thank you for your letter of 20 September confirming DfT's intention to consider introducing a wider toolkit of enforcement powers for the UK Civil Aviation Authority in relation to offences under the ATOL scheme.

As you will no doubt know from discussions with your officials, our view is that the UK Civil Aviation Authority's current enforcement powers, which are limited to criminal prosecution and the power to revoke, suspend, or amend a business's licence, are disproportionate for tackling the majority of non-compliance issues that we face as the ATOL regulator. Our view is that these types of non-compliance issues, such as the failure to supply a correct ATOL certificate to a consumer or to provide the UK Civil Aviation Authority with certain operational or financial information in a timely manner, would be best dealt with through a more flexible regime of civil sanctions. Allowing the UK Civil Aviation Authority to have access to civil sanctions will enable us to be more targeted and effective in addressing non-compliance issues and in bringing businesses back into compliance. The existing criminal prosecution and licensing powers will remain as important enforcement tools for the UK Civil Aviation Authority to tackle the most severe and harmful breaches of the ATOL requirements.

We will continue to work closely with your officials on the development of these proposals and, as the prospect of receiving these new powers comes closer, on the operational aspect of how the UK Civil Aviation Authority intends to embed and use these powers.

In relation to the most immediate next steps set out in your letter, we agree that we should make public our exchange of letters on this important matter. We will consider the best location for this on our website and will be in touch with your officials shortly to confirm this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Bishton", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Bishton  
**Group Director Safety and Airspace  
Regulation and Interim Joint CEO**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Smith", written in a cursive style.

Paul Smith  
**Group Director Consumer & Markets and  
Interim Joint CEO**

#### **Civil Aviation Authority**

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