

13 July 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the introduction of a sanctioning mechanism for misuse of slots in line with EC Regulation 95/93 as amended by Regulation 793/2004

Please find attached a copy of a consultation document on the above issue and accompanying annexes. If you are not the correct person within your organisation to deal with this issue I would be very grateful if you could pass this on to them. I provide a summary of the key issues below:

The purpose of the consultation

Article 14.5 of slots Regulation 793/2004 places an obligation on Member States to put in place, in the circumstances specified, sanctions to deal with repeated and intentional misuse of slots by airlines. This consultation aims to gather views on the most appropriate way for such a system to be established at the UK's coordinated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester).

The results of the consultation will inform the revision of Statutory Instrument 1993/1067, the purpose of which is to implement within UK law the technical amendments made to EC Regulation 95/93 by Regulation 793/2004.

The overall objective of the European Regulation 793/2004 is to ensure that where airport capacity is scarce, the available capacity is used efficiently and distributed in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent way. Enforcement measures and sanctions have been introduced with the aim of discouraging misuse of slots and thereby maximising the effectiveness of the slot allocation system.

The audience

This consultation is aimed at stakeholders from the aviation industry, in particular at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester airports, who may be directly affected by a slots sanctioning system. However, the consultation has been posted on the Department's website and is open to anyone who wishes their view to be considered.

The deadline for responses and how to respond

The deadline for responses is **7 October 2005**.

Responses to the consultation and any enquiries should be addressed to:

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The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public authorities to disclose information they hold if it is requested. This includes information contained in responses to consultations. The department will generally publish subsequently the information it discloses under FOI on its website. If you ask for your response to be kept confidential this will only be possible if it is consistent with the Department's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Hannah John