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The Rt Hon John Denham MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

9 March 2010

Dear Secretary of State

STANSTED G2 INQUIRY

Following my letter to you of 2 March 2010 explaining BAA's position on the G2 planning applications, I have been contacted by the Stop Stansted Expansion group asking for clarification on a point in my letter.

I have been asked: "Can you please explain precisely what you mean by the phrase "once the present uncertainty about ownership has been removed", i.e. what event or events need(s) to take place before you would regard the present uncertainty as having been removed? For example, would you regard a resolution of BAA's current dispute with the Competition Commission over the forced divestment of Stansted as marking the end of the present uncertainty or do you mean (in the event that BAA is still required to sell Stansted) the installation of a new owner, or do you mean something else?"

Since the Secretary of State has suspended the G2 inquiry in order to allow the position of ownership to be resolved, I anticipate that BAA could only be the promoter of G2 at a planning inquiry if it remains the owner of Stansted. If there was a change of ownership it would necessarily be for any new owner to decide what to do.

My letter therefore refers to the present uncertainty about ownership being removed in our favour and where we retain ownership of the airport. This would occur once the dispute with the Competition Commission is finally settled, whether through the Courts and/or following another market investigation of the kind which the Commission completed in 2009.

We cannot say what might happen or in what timescale in the event of some other outcome.

Yours faithfully



Mike Forster
Infrastructure and Sustainability Director
BAA

cc: The Rt Hon Lord Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport
cc: David O'Brien, Chairman, Stansted ACC
cc: Carol Barbone, Stop Stansted Expansion
cc: Roger Harborough, Uttlesford District Council
cc: Steve Bailes, Hertfordshire County Council
cc: David Dash, Essex County Council
cc: Chris Williams, CMS Cameron McKenna