



Stewart McDonald MP
Member of Parliament for Glasgow South
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
stewart.mcdonald.mp@parliament.uk

Alex Cruz CEO
British Airways
Waterside House
PO Box 365
Harmondsworth
West Drayton
UB7 0GB

May 4th 2020

Dear Alex,

I wanted to follow up on a letter from my colleague, and Transport Spokesperson for the SNP in Westminster, Gavin Newlands MP, regarding the announcement that British Airways' (BA) plans to make 12,000 staff redundant.

This has come as a shock to all customers and staff of BA, particularly given that the airline said it was financially strong enough to weather the COVID-19 storm without seeking UK Government support.

Given IAG are set to receive over €1 billion in Spanish Government backed loans to tide their Spanish operation over, it is inconceivable that UK Government backed support is not sought by BA.

Otherwise, questions will be raised as to why the UK workforce will be left to bear the brunt.

It's hard not to agree with Unite who said this was "smash and grab opportunism", and leaves it looking as if BA view the UK workforce as expendable. This issue must be addressed.

I fully appreciate that these are challenging times for the aviation industry, but to resort to cutting up to 30% of a workforce before seeking any Government support is incomprehensible.

Can you please confirm whether you have approached the Government for additional support?

The SNP have been extremely vocal in calling for additional support for the aviation industry, which have admittedly fallen on deaf ears in the UK Government so far. We shall continue to make the case.

However, that case becomes particularly harder to do on behalf of BA when such extreme job losses have been announced. I urge you to explore all funding options and possibilities to help maintain these jobs.

Whilst receiving additional financial support and the ongoing pandemic are viewed as temporary events in the long run, the lasting effects of job losses and reputational damage to BA could be permanent.

Yours sincerely,