

Doncaster Chamber  
Oak House  
Heavens Walk  
Doncaster  
South Yorkshire  
DN4 5HZ

Rt Hon. Louise Haigh MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Secretary of State

**RE: Doncaster Sheffield Airport Airspace**

Firstly, we would like to warmly congratulate you upon your new cabinet appointment.

We are writing — as representatives of South Yorkshire’s business community — to underline the strategic and economic importance of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) within our region, as well as to call for National Government’s aid as we approach the final stretch in our hard-fought campaign to secure its future. Specifically, we would welcome it if you would use your position, as incumbent Transport Secretary, to work with the Civil Aviation Authority to reinstate the airspace above DSA to its former designation, so that the airport can get back up-and-running as soon as feasibly possible.

When the fate of the airport was first called into question, by its owners announcing a strategic review, it naturally came as a huge blow to the region. Yet it also galvanised us into collective action.

Over the course of the last two years, we have seen a remarkable collaborative effort — involving various political partners, the local authority, campaigning groups, business organisations and the private sector — with everybody pulling together and showing a united “Team South Yorkshire” front. We certainly have a lot to show for it; indeed, “Team South Yorkshire” has managed to get a deal over the line, secured a 125-year lease for the site, and City of Doncaster Council is on the cusp of announcing a new operator for DSA when it eventually does reopen its doors.

All this tireless work and investment cannot be in vain, which is why we are writing to you now, at this critical juncture, to help reinstate DSA’s airspace which is presently in jeopardy. Victory is in plain sight, and we cannot afford any unnecessary hurdles that could potentially jeopardise that. If the airspace lacks the proper designation, then it will inevitably cause problems and delays leading to deferred economic benefit at a time when our region and country so badly needs growth; as such, we ask for your support.

The airport’s significance for the wider region cannot be understated. After all, an impact study recently found that it has the untapped potential to generate upwards of £1.5 billion in net benefits over the course of three decades, while also representing thousands of jobs for the area too. This is an issue that is close to the hearts of our respective members. The business community is deeply invested in DSA’s survival as they know, just as we do, that successful economies need successful airports.

With all of that said, we hope that we can count on your support. There is a great opportunity before us here, not only to safeguard one of South Yorkshire’s most valuable assets, but also to demonstrate that the nation’s new Government is joining things up with local partners and squarely behind South Yorkshire’s biggest economic project. We therefore

urge you to work with the CAA to reinstate DSA's airspace as a matter of urgency and would be delighted to meet with you or your officials to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce

Beckie Hart, Regional Director at The Confederation of British Industry Yorkshire and the Humber

Charles Turner DL, Master Cutler at The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire <sup>1</sup>

Daniel Fell, Chief Executive of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce

Paula Gouldthorpe, Development Manager (South & East Yorkshire & the Humber) at The Federation of Small Businesses

Dawn Huntrod, Regional Membership Director – North at Make UK

Mark Chadwick, Founder of the #SaveDSA Campaign<sup>2</sup>

Louisa-Harrison Walker, Chief Executive of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce

Martin McKervey, Chair of the Sheffield Property Association

Tariq Shah OBE, Co-Chair of the South Yorkshire Business Advisory Board

Peter Kennan, Co-Chair of the South Yorkshire Transport Forum<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Representing Manufacturing and Engineering Across South Yorkshire

<sup>2</sup> A campaign group, established in July 2022, that now has over 26,400 members on Facebook.

<sup>3</sup> A regional forum dedicated to representing the views of businesses — in the private, public, educational and third sectors — on key issues relating to transport.