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Jacob

Brexit Opportunity: Duty Free for Arrivals

Last week, you called on the public and Parliamentary colleagues to propose ideas that would help to demonstrate the concrete benefits of Brexit. We are writing about one specific proposal that would give a direct financial benefit to British consumers: permitting duty free for international passengers arriving in the U.K.

In 2021, the Government changed the rules on duty free to enable consumers to bring back higher allowance of duty-free products when travelling back to the U.K. from the European Union. This change was only possible because of Brexit. It has already proved very popular, with sales of duty free for those travelling to the U.K. rising by almost 50%. However, current rules mean that these duty-free purchases can only be made abroad at airports outside the U.K.

We believe that the Government should allow duty free sales now to be made on arrival in the U.K. This would enable in-bound passengers to buy their duty-free products at U.K. airports, without the need to carry their purchases the full length of their journey - making it more convenient for passengers and reducing fuel requirements and subsequent emissions for airlines. It would also help bolster the revenue of U.K. airports that have been particularly badly hit during the pandemic. Over 40 other countries, including Australia, Switzerland, Singapore, and the Netherlands permit duty free to be purchased on arrival. We believe this would be a highly visible benefit of Brexit to the wider public.

In addition, such a change would support the Government's plans to level up the country. The key beneficiaries of allowing duty free for arrivals would be regional airports who are hugely reliant airport retail for their revenue. Importantly, recent research has shown that the introduction of arrivals duty free would have little to no impact on Government revenues. In fact, a recent report by the independent York Aviation found that arrivals stores could potentially result in £50 million additional government revenue in extra corporation tax and taxable income generated by new job creation.

We believe that allowing arrivals duty free would provide a concrete benefit that is only possible because our country took the decision to leave the E.U. We urge you to support this change.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely, ~~ever,~~

Andrew

Andrew Rosindell M.P.

Graham Brady

Sir Graham Brady M.P., Chairman of the 1922 Committee

Daniel Kawczynski M.P.

Henry Smith M.P.

Pauline Latham M.P.