

FOI Ref

7363

Response sent

22 Jun 20

**(CCC) SASIG/LGA Investigation into Airport Business Rates During the COVID Crisis.**

I am writing to you on behalf of SASIG (the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group) of the Local Government Association. SASIG has been asked by the LGA to co-ordinate the collation of an evidence base on how the question of claims in relation to Business Rates relief by Airports affected by COVID-19 are being handled given that they fall outside the exemption for full relief in Government legislation and Treasury Guidance on the virus has allowed other travel and hospitality businesses. We are aware for example of airports seeking to delay payment of Business Rates, of others asking for full relief of payment for an agreed period (as has been allowed in Scotland and Northern Ireland), and in some cases even that S44 applications have been submitted.

Given the frequent mismatch between the size of airport and the authority responsible for collecting the rates we are anxious to make representations to Government on behalf of both Local Authorities and airports, to get a better co-ordinated, proportionate and fairer resolution to the current confusion and anomalies. To do this we feel it is essential that we have an evidence base of what is happening on the ground and the issues that are arising. That is the purpose of this Request for Information, which we hope will not take long to complete and that you will be able to respond to expeditiously. We ideally would like responses to be with us by close of play on 22nd June but will take until 25th June.

Your assistance will be much appreciated, and we would be happy to copy you into our representations and keep you informed of the outcome of any subsequent discussions with Government.

**Response:**

There are no airport premises located within Cambridge City Council boundary therefore we cannot respond to your specific request. Cambridge does have a regional airport but this is located within South Cambridgeshire District Council who may be able to assist you further.

We aim to provide a high quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to [foi@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cambridge.gov.uk)