

# TRAVELMATTERS

Millbank Media Centre, Westminster

18 June 2014

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# Targeting growth, 2015 and beyond

I am pleased to welcome you to ABTA's fifth annual Travel Matters event. This conference is the leading event focusing on the current policy matters and issues affecting the travel industry and as ever, we have an outstanding line-up of speakers to hear from and to debate the key issues with today.

Our theme this year is **Targeting growth, 2015 and beyond**. Being less than a year before the 2015 General Election, the content and discussions will be significantly influenced by this, with two broad themes being economic growth and the opportunity that 2015 presents. We'll be addressing the robustness of the recovery; travel and tourism sustaining the recovery; the industry's role in creating jobs; the prospects for growth to 2015 and beyond, and much more besides.

We will also be providing a preview of ABTA's key asks of the political parties in advance of the General Election and debating tourism's political profile. We regularly hear from politicians about how important it is for the industry to put forward its views to Government on the issues that matter to us. Travel Matters provides the forum to do this, and we welcome your participation in today's discussions.



*Mark Tanzer*

**Mark Tanzer**  
Chief Executive



## Deloitte.

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Password: venues123

To view the Travel Matters highlights video, visit [www.abta.com/travelmatters2014](http://www.abta.com/travelmatters2014)

# Programme of events

**09:00 Registration, coffee and networking**

**09:45 Welcome and introduction**

*Daisy McAndrew*

Journalist and presenter, Daisy McAndrew, opens the Conference with an overview of the programme.



**09:50 Targeting growth, 2015 and beyond**

*Mark Tanzer, Chief Executive, ABTA*

This session will set the tone for the day, highlighting the key themes for discussion and a preview of ABTA's key asks of the main political parties in advance of the 2015 General Election. It will also be an opportunity for ABTA's Chief Executive to offer perspectives on the UK's economic recovery, the industry's job-creating role and prospects for growth to 2015, and beyond.

**10:00 Uncertainties ahead – challenges and opportunities in travel today**

*Mark Tanzer, Chief Executive, ABTA*

*Julia Lo Bue-Said, Managing Director, Advantage Travel Partnership*

*Phil Boggon, Managing Director, Monarch Travel Group*

*Richard Downs, Founder and CEO, Iglu.com*

This panel session will delve into the complex challenges and opportunities facing the travel and tourism industry. Against a changing and sometimes uncertain backdrop such as recent EU elections and the independence referendum in Scotland, this panel will discuss current industry hot topics including school holiday pricing, the sharing economy, and consumer confidence as growth returns to the UK economy.

**10:40 Competitiveness in a changing world**

*Graham Pickett, Partner, Deloitte*

This session will look at the changing macroeconomic environment, outlining how it will impact consumers and ultimately, the UK travel sector. It will also examine how digital disruption is changing the travel industry landscape and how travel businesses can improve their competitiveness by embracing all facets of digital technology to achieve greater efficiency and enhance the customer experience.

**10:55 Audience questions and answers**

*with Graham Pickett*

**11:00 Coffee break**

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**11:30 Welcome back**

*Daisy McAndrew*

**11:35 Keynote: Perspectives from Government**

*Robert Goodwill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport*

From the Government's response to the Airports Commission's interim report, to preliminary Government views on the future of consumer protection in the UK, this keynote will offer perspectives from Government on policy matters of key interest to the UK's travel and tourism industry. The Aviation Minister will also offer wider views on the Government's priorities to 2015, and beyond

**11:45 Audience questions and answers**

*with Robert Goodwill MP*

**11:55 Perspectives on ATOL reform – what can the industry expect?**

*Kate Jennings, Head of Aviation Policy, Department for Transport*

This session will highlight how the consumer protection landscape has changed in recent years, as well as Government views on how regulation must change to keep pace. The Department for Transport will offer views on the recent ATOL call for evidence and outline what the trade can expect next.

**12:10 Audience questions and answers**

*with Kate Jennings*

**12:25 Making the case – capacity, consensus and the Airports Commission**

*Nigel Milton, Director of Policy & Political Relations, Heathrow Airport*  
*Alastair McDermid, Airports Commission Project Director, Gatwick Airport*  
*Huw Thomas, Partner, Foster + Partners*  
*Noel Josephides, Chairman, ABTA and Chairman, Sunvil*

Following the Airports Commission's interim report, and a year out from a final recommendation to Government on where a new runway will be built, this panel session is an opportunity for the airports being considered by the Airports Commission and their users to debate the question: what is the best solution to the UK's airport capacity needs?

**13:10 Lunch break**

**14:05 Welcome back**

*Daisy McAndrew*

**14:10 Keynote: A view from across the aisle**

*Mary Creagh MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport*

Less than a year from the General Election, this keynote will set out Labour's views on key transport policies, including thoughts on the Airports Commission's interim report, the future of consumer protection in the UK, Air Passenger Duty, and the UK's infrastructure needs. This will also be an opportunity for the Shadow Transport Secretary to highlight what travel might expect from a future Labour Government.

**14:20 Audience question and answers**

*with Mary Creagh MP*

**14:30 Infrastructure, tax, regulation – a vision for a competitive UK**

*Alok Sharma MP, Conservative MP for Reading West*  
*Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Labour MP for Poplar and Limehouse*  
*Stephen D'Alfonso, Head of Public Affairs, ABTA*

This panel will explore the UK's changing place in the world and visions for how the country will be best able to compete. Air Passenger Duty and airport capacity are likely to be two of the key themes as the panel discuss how policy change might help UK's competitiveness, and encourage jobs and growth.

**15:10 Battleground 2015 and the travel connection – politics, policy, and what to expect in May 2015**

*Lewis Baston, Political Analyst, LSE's Democratic Audit Group*  
*Nigel Huddleston, Conservative Candidate for Mid Worcestershire*  
*Luke Pollard, Labour/Cooperative Candidate for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport*  
*Helen Flynn, Liberal Democrat Candidate for Harrogate and Knaresborough*

This session will delve into the General Election specifically, and the tourism connection, taking a closer look at the constituencies and policy areas where the 2015 General Election will be fought and how the travel and tourism industry can ensure good policy wins out of 2015.

Lewis Baston is an expert political analyst who predicted Labour's 2005 majority to the seat, and was just four seats off in predicting the Conservative minority in 2010. Lewis will offer his views on the election in general, which will be followed by a discussion with the three parliamentary candidates.

**16:00 A journey in politics – highs, lows, and what to expect on the road to 2015**

*Lord Fowler*

The conference will close with a behind the scenes account of political struggles and the journey to become elected, remain electable, and make a difference. Lord Fowler is a non-executive Director of ABTA.

**16:20 Closing remarks**

*Noel Josephides, Chairman, ABTA*

**16:30 Conference close and networking reception**



## Speakers



**Robert Goodwill MP**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary  
of State for Transport*



**Mary Creagh MP**  
*Shadow Secretary of  
State for Transport*



**Kate Jennings**  
*Head of Aviation Policy  
Department for Transport*



**Lord Fowler**



**Graham Pickett**  
*Partner  
Deloitte*



**Mark Tanzer**  
*Chief Executive  
ABTA*

## Panellists

### Uncertainties ahead – challenges and opportunities in travel today



**Mark Tanzer**  
*Chief Executive  
ABTA*



**Julia Lo Bue-Said**  
*Managing Director  
Advantage Travel Partnership*



**Phil Boggon**  
*Managing Director  
Monarch Travel Group*



**Richard Downs**  
*Founder and CEO  
Iglu.com*

## Panellists (continued)

### Making the case – capacity, consensus and the Airports Commission



**Nigel Milton**  
*Director of Policy & Political Relations  
Heathrow Airport*



**Alastair McDermid**  
*Airports Commission Project Director  
Gatwick Airport*



**Huw Thomas**  
*Partner  
Foster + Partners*



**Noel Josephides**  
*Chairman, ABTA  
Chairman, Sunvil*

### Competitiveness in a changing world



**Alok Sharma MP**  
*Conservative MP for Reading West*



**Jim Fitzpatrick MP**  
*Labour MP for Poplar and Limehouse*



**Stephen D'Alfonso**  
*Head of Public Affairs  
ABTA*

### Battleground 2015 and the travel connection – politics, policy, and what to expect in May 2015



**Lewis Baston**  
*Political Analyst  
LSE's Democratic Audit Group*



**Nigel Huddleston**  
*Conservative Candidate for  
Mid Worcestershire*



**Luke Pollard**  
*Labour/Cooperative Candidate for  
Plymouth Sutton and Devonport*



**Helen Flynn**  
*Liberal Democrat Candidate for  
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To promote growth and jobs in tourism to 2015 and beyond, ABTA is calling for

1. Action to increase airport capacity once the Airports Commission completes its work and delivers recommendations
2. Investment in infrastructure across all transport modes, enhancing surface access and connectivity, while improving services for passengers and businesses alike
3. Further reform and reduction of Air Passenger Duty to ensure the UK is a more competitive place to invest in, trade with, and visit
4. Embedding a coherent approach to tourism policy in support of the UK's vibrant mix of outbound, inbound and domestic travel and tourism businesses and the jobs we support
5. Ensuring completion of consumer protection reforms to provide comprehensive protection for the travelling public and a balanced regulatory environment for UK businesses



**Investing for the future, competitiveness, and building confidence in travel**  
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