



Date: 12th April, 2012.

Our Ref: GF1/TC/MB

BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mr. S. McAteer,
Clerk to Committee for Finance and Personnel,
Department for Finance and Personnel,
Room 149,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont Estate,
BELFAST,
BT4 3SX.

Dear Sir,

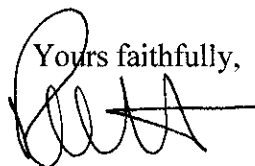
**Scrutiny of proposals for a Legislative Consent Motion on the U.K. Finance Bill
2012 regarding N.I. Air Passenger Duty for Direct Long-haul Flights**

I refer to your letter dated 15th March, 2012 seeking written evidence from stakeholders to inform the Finance and Personnel Committee's report to the Assembly in advance of a plenary debate on the L.C.M.

Council strongly welcomes the Legislative Consent Motion on the U.K. Finance Bill 2012 regarding the devolution to the Assembly of N.I. Air Passenger Duty for direct haul flights.

The key role of tourism as an export and the need to develop new international markets for our businesses is recognised by Council and we trust that the Assembly will take a strategic approach to developing relevant policy on this issue.

Council considers that the impact of Air Passenger Duty on the competitiveness and growth prospects of the Northern Ireland Economy is of vital importance.

Yours faithfully,


R. McKnight
Acting Town Clerk and Chief Executive

