



BUSINESS TRAVEL SURVEY 2011

* Required Question(s)



BACKGROUND

Since the introduction of APD (Air Passenger Duty) - labelled as the Green Tax - back in 1994, at an initial rate of £5 per journey, Government has continued to raise its level, until the budget in March of this year when - not least as a result of campaigning by the SPAA and other travel bodies - it was frozen, but with the caveat that a double-inflation level rise would be introduced in 2012. It is understood that an announcement will be made in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, confirming this significant further increase in APD and a re-structuring of the geographical bandings currently in place.

CURRENT APD LEVELS

The current levels of APD tax are divided into four bands, measuring the distance in miles from London, and are dependent on the class of travel. They are charged per

person, per sector. The table below shows the equivalent APD rates payable by business travellers at the current rates for travel, on a return basis, in both Economy and Premium Economy/Business Class :

UK domestic ex Scotland: £24

Europe ex Scotland: Economy £12 Premium/Business £24

USA ex Scotland: Economy £60 Premium/Business £120

Hong Kong ex Scotland: Economy £75 Premium/Business £150

Australia ex Scotland: Economy £85 Premium/Business £170

OUR KEY PROPOSALS

The SPAA, in its submission to Government back in June of this year, expressed not only our real concern over the cost to passengers of APD, and due to excessive APD costs the resulting viability of domestic air services, but also the additional burden on passengers travelling onwards over London.

Our key proposals are :

> Domestic air travel should be exempt from APD

> We support the amendment to two APD bands :

Band 1 = UK & Europe, including all countries bordering the Mediterranean and Jordan (excluding domestic travel)

Band 2 = the rest of the world

OUR KEY CONCERNS

The SPAA's key concerns for business in Scotland are :

> the ever-increasing tax burden on people flying puts Scotland at a competitive disadvantage, when compared to our European neighbours, and makes the whole of the UK uncompetitive

> the damaging impact of APD, and any increases in it, on the UK and Scottish inbound market

> the damaging impact of APD, and any increases in it, on investment in businesses in Scotland; and on air route viability - both of existing and prospective new services from and to Scotland

In developing and making our representations to Government, highlighting these proposals and concerns, we are keen to reflect your views, as a member of Scotland's

business community. Please take a few brief moments to complete and return this survey ...

*** 1. Do you have a company policy relating to air travel?**

Yes

No

Other

Comment:

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*** 2. Do you have a company policy relating to domestic travel (eg air, rail, road)?**

Yes

No

Other

Comment:

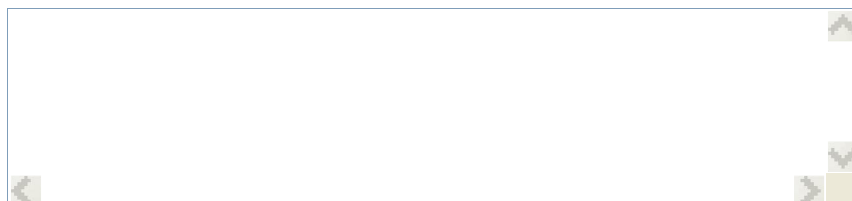
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*** 3. Do you usually book your own travel (if 'no' please comment on how you make your bookings - eg via a PA or travel department)?**

Yes

No

Comment:




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*** 4. When travelling to London, do you usually travel by air or rail? (please specify which, or identify how you usually travel eg by car)**

- Air
 Rail
 Other _____

Comment:




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*** 5. On average, how many trips involving travel by air do you make each year?**

- 1 - 10
 11 - 20
 More than 20 trips

Comment:



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*** 6. When travelling to a destination in Europe, or Worldwide, would you have a preference to travel via London or another hub, if the costs were the same?**

- via London
 via another hub

Comment:

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*** 7. When selecting your flight/s, what is the most important influencing factor? (please rank in order of preference, 1 being most important)**

(1 = Most)

- Cost
- Airline
- Route
- Convenience
- Other (please specify)

Comment:

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*** 8. Before completing this survey, were you aware how much APD tax you pay per trip / per annum?**

- Yes
- No

Comment:

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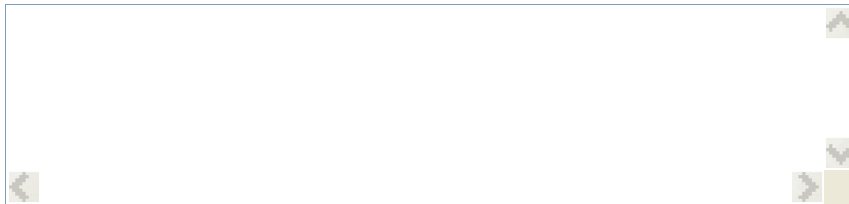
*** 9.**

Bearing in mind what you are already paying in APD, do you think that a further increase could have an influence over your decision to travel by air in the future?

Yes

No

Comment:

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*** 10.**

Have your travel patterns changed over the past two years due to the cost of air travel and taxation?

Yes

No

Comment:

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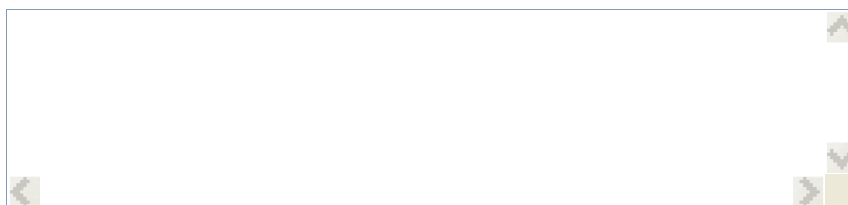
*** 11.**

APD is a tax - it does not go towards any green policy or emissions trading scheme. Do you agree with Government's intention to raise taxes via APD in 2012?

Yes

No

Comment:

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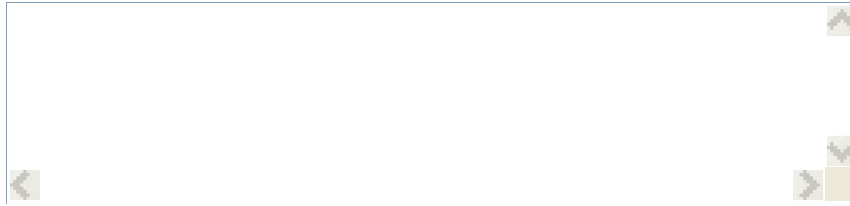
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*** 12.**

How do you think this proposed increase in taxation would alter your travel habits (please indicate all that apply)?

- I would move from air to rail or road
- I would travel less frequently
- No change
- Other _____

Comment:



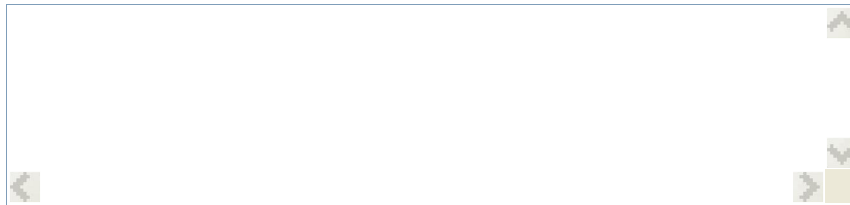
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*** 13.**

The fewer people who fly it, the less viable an air route will be. Scotland must retain as many air routes as possible to keep us connected to London and beyond. Do you agree that APD is having a negative impact of the viability of domestic air routes and services?

- Yes
- No

Comment:



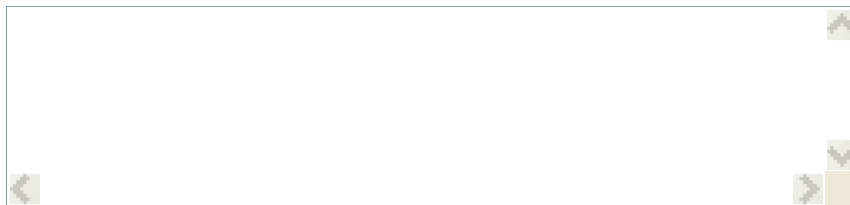
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*** 14.**

Bearing in mind that visitors to the UK must also pay APD, do you think this could have an adverse effect on inbound tourism and business investment in Scotland, resulting in them choosing another destination?

- Yes
- No

Comment:



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THANK YOU! PLEASE SIGN OUR ELECTRONIC PETITION ...

Many thanks indeed, for taking the time to complete this survey; your input will help us enormously in making the strongest possible representations to Government in support of Scotland's air travellers, and Scottish business!

Supporting those representations will be a petition - and we would like to invite you to 'sign' this electronically, by inserting your name and company at the bottom of this survey. Many thanks ...

SPAA (Scottish Passengers Agents' Association)

15.

I fully support the SPAA's Fair Tax Campaign to Keep Scotland Flying by ending APD on domestic air travel (please insert your name, position and company if you wish to 'sign' the petition)

First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Job Title:	<input type="text"/>
Company Name:	<input type="text"/>