

21 February 2023

Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

Secretary of State for Transport

Via email – [mark.harper.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mark.harper.mp@parliament.uk) / [DfT.Ministers@dft.gov.uk](mailto:DfT.Ministers@dft.gov.uk)

## Open letter

Dear Secretary of State

The 2021 Air Travel Trust (ATT) accounts have finally been published following our Freedom of Information Request. The 2022 accounts are 9 months overdue and have not been published as we have been told they have not yet been produced – not even in a draft form.

One of the auditors notes in these recently published 2021 accounts are a reminder of the responsibilities of the trustees (page 13):

### Responsibilities of trustees

As required by Clause 17 of the Trust Deed, the Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records to enable them to ensure that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at the end of the financial year and of the income and expenditure of the Trust for that period, and that comply with the Trust Deed and the directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Transport. They are also responsible for the system of internal control, for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Our assumption is that the auditors, Deloitte, are not at fault for the deficiency.

How can the trustees be fulfilling their obligation for *'keeping proper accounting records'* if no 2022 accounts exist, even in draft form?

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The total cost of running ATOL is not yet known to us. One line in the ATT accounts attributes £891,562 to CAA administrative expenses. Trailfinders alone pay £30,000 annually for the administration of our ATOL licence. The cost of the ATOL and the ATT's administrative machine is very substantial. Given that, why is it so performing so poorly?

How will you ensure the ATT trustees fulfil their obligations in a timely manner?

Yours sincerely



Toby Kelly  
CEO

Cc: Sir Mike Gooley, Founder & Executive Chairman, Trailfinders

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