



**IN THE COMPETITION
APPEAL TRIBUNAL**

Case No: 1740/12/13/25

BETWEEN:

BRISTOL AIRPORT LIMITED

Appellant

- v -

WELSH MINISTERS

Respondent

ORDER (DIRECTIONS TO TRIAL)

UPON reading the Notice of Appeal pursuant to section 70 of the Subsidy Control Act filed by the Appellant on 20 June 2025

AND UPON the parties in these proceedings filing a draft consent order for the Tribunal's consideration on 15 July 2025

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Forum

1. The proceedings shall be treated for all purposes as proceedings in England and Wales.

Intervention

2. Any request to the Tribunal for permission to intervene shall be made in accordance with Rule 16 of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules and lodged no later than **4:00pm on Thursday 7 August 2025.**

Directions to Trial

3. By **4:00pm** on **Friday 26 September 2025**, the Respondent shall file and serve its Defence, accompanied by any witness evidence and disclosure relied upon.
4. The Appellant shall have liberty to apply to amend its Notice of Appeal. Any such application shall be made no later than **4:00pm** on **Friday 17 October** in writing, supported by a draft of the proposed amendments and any further evidence of witnesses of fact it proposes to adduce.
5. In the event that the Appellant wishes to seek permission to adduce expert evidence, it shall apply to do so no later than **4:00pm** on **Friday 17 October 2025** in writing, such application to be accompanied by a draft expert report.
6. The Respondent (and any intervener) shall by **4:00pm** on **Friday 24 October 2025** indicate its agreement or opposition to any applications seeking permission to amend the Notice of Appeal and/or any proposed expert evidence. The applications(s) shall be determined by the Tribunal on the papers unless it directs otherwise.
7. In the event that the Appellant amends its Notice of Appeal and/or is given permission to adduce expert evidence, the Respondent shall have liberty to amend its Defence in response to the amended Notice of Appeal and/or to apply for permission to adduce responsive expert evidence (as the case may be), by a date to be determined by the Tribunal. The Tribunal will also set a timetable for the filing and service of any Reply or any reply expert evidence.
8. If the Appellant does not apply to amend its Notice of Appeal under paragraph 4 above, then by **4:00pm** on **Friday 17 October 2025**, it shall, if so advised, file and serve a Reply.
9. By **4:00pm** on **Friday 31 October 2025**, the parties will provide the Tribunal with draft pre-trial directions, including directions for:
 - (a) The agreement of lists of issues, preparation of hearing bundles and the dates for filing and exchanging skeleton arguments.

- (b) If permission is given for the parties to adduce expert evidence, the identification of expert issues and a process for the experts to meet to clarify points of agreement or disagreement.
10. The hearing of the appeal shall take place in the week of **9 February 2026**, with a time estimate of two days.
11. The case management conference listed for 10:30am on **22 July 2025** be vacated.
12. Costs in the case.

Mr Ben Tidswell
Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal

Made: 18 July 2025
Drawn: 18 July 2025