



Suite 405, 4/F, Lee Garden Three, 1 Sunning Road • Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Our Ref: L2022-005

February 24, 2022

The Honourable Ms Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor
Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Executive
Tamar, Hong Kong Special Administration Region, China

Via email: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

Re: Request for critical financial aid under anti-epidemic fund measures for Hong Kong business aviation operators

Dear Chief Executive,

The Asian Business Aviation Association (ASBAA) presents its compliments to you and the Office of the Chief Executive and has the honour of drawing its attention to the current critical financial challenges faced by business aviation operators in Hong Kong.

First, our organisation and its members unequivocally stand in unison with the Hong Kong government in its efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all Hong Kongers during this epidemic. Our organisation is grateful for your leadership and hard work throughout this difficult period.

Over the past 25 years, as you may be aware, business aviation in Hong Kong has grown into a substantial industry, supporting thousands of local families directly and indirectly by creating jobs and generating economic transactions for Hong Kong. It has also brought Hong Kong recognition as one of the world's leading business aviation hubs. The business aviation industry's robustness in turn plays an important role in sustaining Hong Kong's status as a world financial centre and nexus of international commerce.

We write this letter to share with you several figures and concerns that illustrate the dire situation of business aviation in Hong Kong today.

In 2019, just prior to the epidemic, there were roughly 120 business jets based in Hong Kong. Over the last two years, due to the increasingly challenging operating environment with regards to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, there remains only roughly 40 business jets based in Hong Kong. In a span of just two years, Hong Kong has lost over 60% of its locally based business jet fleet to other nations. In 2019, there were on average 20 business jet movements per day in Hong Kong. Last year, there were on average only 4 per day. It is worth noting that with the currently limited operational capability of the airlines, business jets have become an even more important tool to drive and sustain Hong Kong businesses that originate thousands of local jobs.



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The departure of two-thirds of Hong Kong's business jet fleet has inflicted significant economic harm on hundreds of local businesses that maintained, serviced, and relied on the aircraft and their continuous business missions. It is also a blow to Hong Kong's recognised position as a leading international business aviation hub, and by second-order effect, its status as an international finance centre and commercial nexus. If the current business environment persists for much longer, most if not all business aviation operators in Hong Kong may soon collapse.

We understand that significant anti-epidemic fund measures have been offered to various aviation support service operators. We respectfully request that business aviation operators be included as potential recipients of the financial aid under the anti-epidemic fund measures to facilitate their survival as companies that employ many Hong Kong residents.

AsBAA is available and keen to meet and discuss this matter that concerns many stakeholders both within the business aviation industry and the greater Hong Kong community. Additionally, we wish to make your office aware of our hope for representation on bodies designing new quarantine regulations, so as to ensure the unique operational requirements of business aviation (particularly beyond ground operators at the airport) are fully taken into consideration in the process, and to have a voice in the creation of meaningful and effective measures.

To this end, AsBAA urgently appeals to your office to consider the above requests regarding financial support under the anti-epidemic fund. In the intervening time, AsBAA avails itself of the opportunity to renew to your office the assurance of its highest consideration and shall look forward to the results of any deliberations your office may have.

Yours sincerely,

Zhendong Wu (Mr.)
Chairman
Asian Business Aviation Association