

Wednesday 27 May 2020

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## Weekly bulletin for Customers, Staff and Stakeholders #9

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- Three months ago the phrase '*supply chain*' would have meant little or nothing to the average person. Frantic searches for hand sanitiser and loo roll emptied shop shelves and led to rapid public learning as to just how goods really reach shops, and our homes, as though by magic. We all now know just how complicated a process lies behind those words.
- The speed at which some links in the process stretched to breaking point, showed clearly just how fragile the supply chain is, and how much it depends on efficient and available transport connections. With passenger air transport grounded, cargo holds are no longer moving goods from hub to hub for onward carriage to wholesalers, retailers and us.
- The demand for swift and efficient transport of urgent goods will inevitably increase, according to Alexis Bateman, Director of the MIT Sustainable Supply Chains programme. He believes that consumers are likely to scrutinise supply chains more closely, which they will expect to function, in the face of disruption, and with care for the environment.
- As an essential business, both by Government designation and actually, given the varying freight we have carried over the past 10 weeks, we are a proven link in the supply chain around the UK and Europe. RVL is a transport and air freight service provider to shippers, manufacturers and government agencies, including the Environment Agency, MCA and NHS.
- The Freight Transport Association, a key body in this area, represents the whole logistics sector, with members from road, rail, sea and air, plus buyers of freight services including retailers and manufacturers whose businesses depend on the efficient movement of goods. The FTA's roots are in road transport yet it recognised, well before this present crisis, that moving goods between factory, wholesaler, retailer and consumer is only as robust as each transport link in the chain. And is why air freight is firmly part of this logistics family.
- Economic recovery will be kick-started by consumer spending and business investment in new equipment. Our new King Air, as important a link in that process as our new Head of Business Development David Lacy, is standing by to move urgent goods from computing equipment, to precision machinery and parcels from hub to hub for onward transport to wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Call us to see what we can do to help you.