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### **Villiers: Kelly must take action on toxic cabin air**

The Conservatives have joined the Global Cabin Air Quality Executive (GCAQE), in calling for a full public enquiry into the risk of 'contaminated air' in aircraft cabins.

The Government have admitted that 1 in 2000 flights could be affected with these so-called 'fume events' but so far Ruth Kelly has refused to take action to safeguard airline crews and passengers.

Commenting, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers, said:

'The Government's dithering on air cabin quality, with secret studies behind closed doors, has put airline crews and passengers at risk.

'There must now be a full public enquiry to ensure the air we breathe in aeroplanes is truly safe. Another hushed up internal review will not be acceptable.'

ENDS

1. All commercial jet aircraft supply breathing air for passengers and crews taken directly from the engines and supplied unfiltered to the passenger cabin. This air, known as 'bleed air' is known to become contaminated with hazardous chemicals present in synthetic jet engine oils and hydraulic fluids. These chemicals include the organophosphates 'tricresyl phosphate' and 'tributyl phosphate'.
2. The GCAQE report that pilots risk brain damage from contaminated cabin air.
3. The Government have admitted that 1 in 2000 flights report 'fume events' (*Lords Hansard*, 18 October 2007, Col. 786).
4. Conservatives have been pursuing this issue with the Government in letters and Parliamentary Questions since 2006.

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