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Flight taxes needed

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SIR – The proposed tax rises on short-haul flights are £1 this year and £1 in 2010. That's the amount Ryanair recently proposed charging passengers to use the loo. Are we to believe this will "cause UK traffic to collapse" (report, July 21)?

True, the tax rises more steeply on long-haul flights, but this reflects the damage they do to the environment – equivalent to over 10 tons of carbon dioxide per person for the longest return flights.

Ten tons is the total annual output of the average British resident, but that figure will have to reduce drastically over the coming decades if we are to meet legally binding climate-change targets.

We trust the Chancellor will implement the proposed changes and not be swayed by the self-interest of the airlines.

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