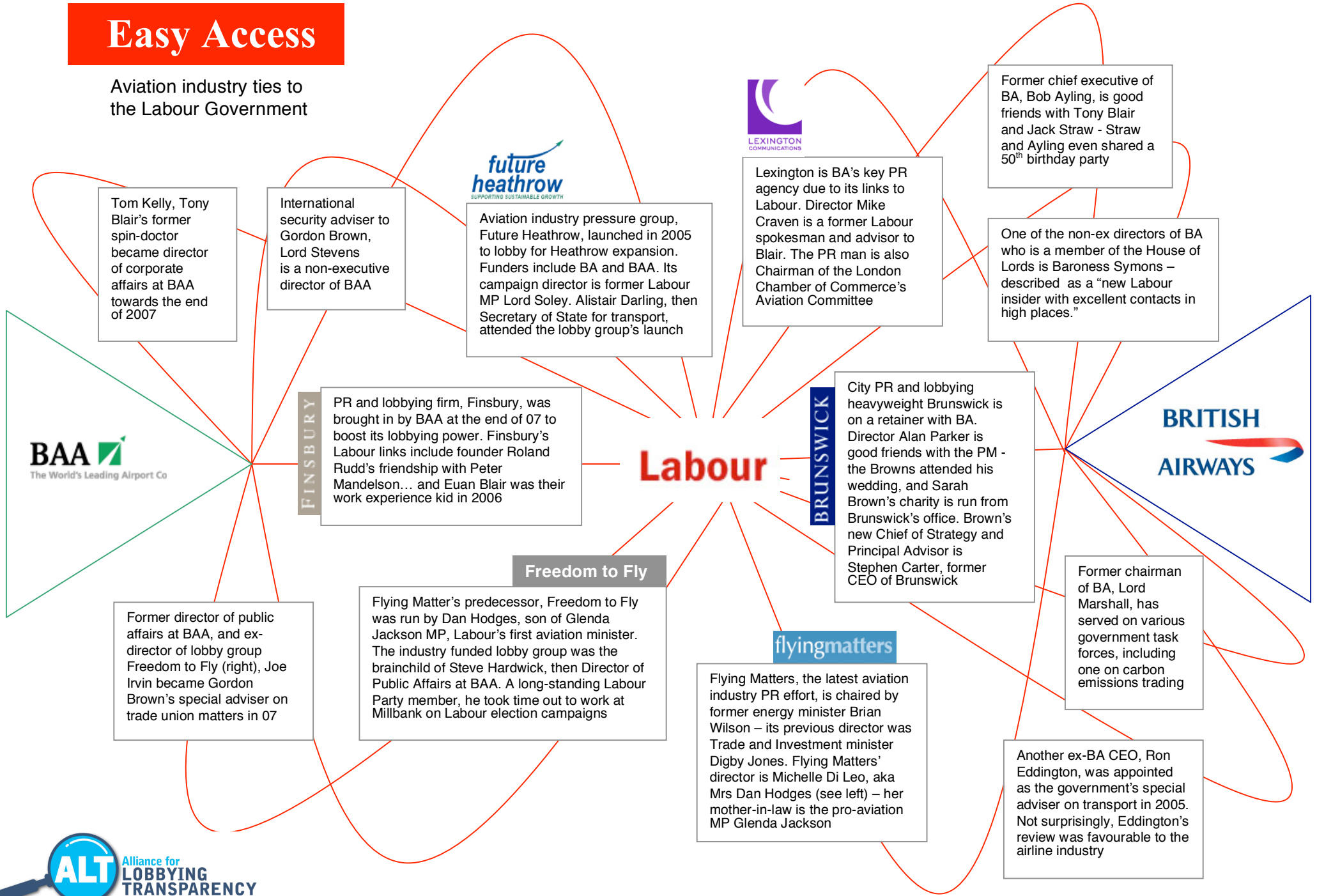


# Easy Access

Aviation industry ties to the Labour Government



Tom Kelly, Tony Blair's former spin-doctor became director of corporate affairs at BAA towards the end of 2007

International security adviser to Gordon Brown, Lord Stevens is a non-executive director of BAA

**future heathrow**  
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Aviation industry pressure group, Future Heathrow, launched in 2005 to lobby for Heathrow expansion. Funders include BA and BAA. Its campaign director is former Labour MP Lord Soley. Alistair Darling, then Secretary of State for transport, attended the lobby group's launch

**LEXINGTON COMMUNICATIONS**

Lexington is BA's key PR agency due to its links to Labour. Director Mike Craven is a former Labour spokesman and advisor to Blair. The PR man is also Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce's Aviation Committee

Former chief executive of BA, Bob Ayling, is good friends with Tony Blair and Jack Straw - Straw and Ayling even shared a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party

One of the non-ex directors of BA who is a member of the House of Lords is Baroness Symons – described as a “new Labour insider with excellent contacts in high places.”



**FINSBURY**

PR and lobbying firm, Finsbury, was brought in by BAA at the end of 07 to boost its lobbying power. Finsbury's Labour links include founder Roland Rudd's friendship with Peter Mandelson... and Euan Blair was their work experience kid in 2006

## Labour

**BRUNSWICK**

City PR and lobbying heavyweight Brunswick is on a retainer with BA. Director Alan Parker is good friends with the PM - the Browns attended his wedding, and Sarah Brown's charity is run from Brunswick's office. Brown's new Chief of Strategy and Principal Advisor is Stephen Carter, former CEO of Brunswick



Former director of public affairs at BAA, and ex-director of lobby group Freedom to Fly (right), Joe Irvin became Gordon Brown's special adviser on trade union matters in 07

**Freedom to Fly**

Flying Matter's predecessor, Freedom to Fly was run by Dan Hodges, son of Glenda Jackson MP, Labour's first aviation minister. The industry funded lobby group was the brainchild of Steve Hardwick, then Director of Public Affairs at BAA. A long-standing Labour Party member, he took time out to work at Millbank on Labour election campaigns

**flyingmatters**

Flying Matters, the latest aviation industry PR effort, is chaired by former energy minister Brian Wilson – its previous director was Trade and Investment minister Digby Jones. Flying Matters' director is Michelle Di Leo, aka Mrs Dan Hodges (see left) – her mother-in-law is the pro-aviation MP Glenda Jackson

Former chairman of BA, Lord Marshall, has served on various government task forces, including one on carbon emissions trading

Another ex-BA CEO, Ron Eddington, was appointed as the government's special adviser on transport in 2005. Not surprisingly, Eddington's review was favourable to the airline industry