



Department
for Transport

Scan to: Sally P
David J
Hta.

The Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Transport Minister for Aviation, International
Trade and Europe

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: lord.ahmad@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/181398

David Johnson
Chair, Campaign to Protect Rural England
Sussex Branch
Brownings Farm
Blackboys
East Sussex
TN22 5HG

30 November 2016

Dear Mr Johnson.

Thank you for your letter of 14 October to the Prime Minister, about the expansion of Gatwick Airport. I am replying as Minister responsible for aviation policy.

On 25 October 2016 the Government announced that it has accepted the independent Airports Commission's recommendation for a new north-west runway at Heathrow Airport as its preferred option to deliver airport expansion in the south-east.

This will be the first new full length runway in the South East since the Second World War and the Government believes that expanding Heathrow will better connect the UK to long haul destinations in growing world markets. It will create thousands of jobs, boost our economy and help secure the UK's position globally. While there are clear gains for business, passengers will also benefit from a greater choice of airlines, destinations and flight times.

A new runway at Heathrow is expected to bring economic benefits worth up to £61 billion. Up to 77,000 additional local jobs are expected to be created over the next 14 years and the airport has committed to create 5,000 new apprenticeships over the same period.

Expansion at the airport will better connect the UK to long haul destinations across the globe and to growing world markets including in Asia and South America, bringing a significant boost to trade. Heathrow already handles more freight by value than all other UK airports combined, accounting for 31% of the UK's non-EU trade, and its expansion is expected to create even more opportunities for UK business to get their goods to new markets.

This is just the beginning of the process; the preferred scheme will now be subject to a full and fair public consultation through a draft Airports National Policy Statement to be published in the New Year.

The public consultation will be the appropriate point to set out views on the Government's proposals for airport expansion and we would encourage you to make further submissions at that stage.

Further information about the Government's decision, including background documents and technical reports, along with other relevant documents, are available on the Department for Transport's website at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/heathrow-airport-expansion

I hope this reply is helpful in setting out the Government's position.

Yours sincerely,

Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON