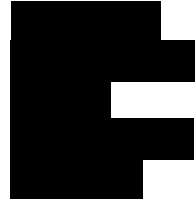


Philip Adshead



21/01/2025

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Concerns Regarding the Expansion of Luton Airport**

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Luton Airport. While I acknowledge the importance of generating growth, I believe that the expansion of Luton Airport has significant negative consequences and greater utilisation of existing capacity at other airports should be incentivised to create growth more broadly across the country.

Firstly, my concerns relating to negative consequences are:

1. Runway length – Luton is already the 5<sup>th</sup> busiest UK airport for passenger numbers and aircraft movement, yet it has one of the shortest runways of all UK airports. It is clearly an anomaly. The recent tragic events at Muan International Airport in South Korea clearly demonstrate the inherent safety risks associated with short runway airports and the risk created by hazards at runway ends. Luton has a very short runway, much shorter than Muan, and with large drops at both ends.
2. Traffic congestion – The M1 at Junction 10 has already been repeatedly remodelled at great expense and yet remains a hotspot for congestion daily.
3. Increased carbon emissions and noise pollution. The Southeast is already the most polluted region in the UK.
4. Increased noise to surrounding communities adversely impacting local residents' quality of life and health. Worst on the East due to aligned flight paths and night flights continuing to be allowed.
5. Inadequate mitigation and compensation. The proposed aircraft noise reduction promised at previous expansion has not been achieved. The noise insulation scheme is ineffective and has no impact on mitigating night noise on warm summer

evenings or when using outdoor space. We recently accepted the existing noise insulation offer, it only covered a single room and the improvement is negligible.

6. Inadequate compensation. The proposed compensation schemes are wholly inadequate, don't cover the areas impacted and don't take account of the pandemic impact on house purchase decisions.

Secondly, I'd like to offer solutions to the negative consequences that I raise:

1. Runway length – Both Birmingham and East Midlands airports have significantly longer runways without significant hazards at the ends. Both have runway capacity for more efficient aircraft and their combined passenger volume is less than Luton. They are only 90 minutes travel from Luton.
2. Traffic congestion – The trunk road network around Birmingham and East Midlands airports is better placed to accommodate increasing volume. The mainline rail connection at Birmingham has capacity for higher passenger numbers.
3. Increased carbon emissions and noise pollution. Moving growth to another region would bring benefits in sharing the benefits of growth and it would distribute pollution more equitably. Another option here would be to directly link growth (at any airport) to actual (not aspirational) improvement in carbon and noise reduction.
4. Increased noise to surrounding communities – Night flights should cease for all. If that is not possible, they must be limited to the quietest aircraft with quota's shared consistently across all airports.
5. Inadequate compensation. Compensation is a choice and a one off. Expansion and growth are forever and to the benefit of all. Compensation of the few, for the benefit of all, must be meaningful and appropriate for anyone suffering an impact.

Considering these concerns and suggestions, I urge you to reconsider the expansion plans for Luton Airport and to give the new government time to explore alternative strategies to create growth across the country. Furthermore, Climate Change must be our focus, I believe the government has already been advised that there should be no airport expansion without reduced emissions. I believe the new government should take time to review and update the overall approach to airport planning.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Adshead

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cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk)