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14th July 2024

Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) – Expansion of London Luton Airport (Project TR020001) submitted by London Luton Airport Limited.

Dear Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP,

As you may or may not be aware a deadline of the 4th October 2024 was announced for a decision on expansion of London Luton airport.

Since February, London Luton Airport Limited (now known as Luton Rising) a Luton Borough Council company, have focused their efforts on promoting a widespread community petition (https://www.petitiononline.uk/expansion_of_london_luton_airport) and encouraging as many local community organisations and businesses to submit letters of support. This petition does not fairly represent the statutory Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

At 31st March 2023 Luton Rising had spent £71 million on the preceding DCO process, which started in June 2018. After five years of promoting airport expansion, and at the start of the examination, Luton Rising had achieved 116 relevant representations in support, 69 non-committal and 1,421 against expansion. They had also achieved 17 letters of support from local community organisations and businesses. At the 3 DCO Open Floor Hearings, 15 spoke in support, 43 against and 5 neutrals of the application.

The petition was partly based upon Luton Rising's environmental claims, which were widely advertised and following complaints which the Advertising Standards Agency have just upheld (<https://www.asa.org.uk/rulings/london-luton-airport-ltd.html>) because they omitted significant information about the environmental impact of the expansion. A response from Luton Borough Council to a Freedom of Information request in March, revealed that £156k had been spent on the advertising campaign to gain support.

Finally, I would have expected Luton Rising and our council to have used the official free government petition service to capture signatures of support (<https://petition.parliament.uk>), rather than a private petition overseas data processing company based in Finland,

Yours sincerely

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I represent a group called Stop Luton Airport Expansion.

