



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

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

24 January 2025

Case Ref: DC40793

Dear Chancellor and Secretary of State,

Imminent government decision on proposed expansion of Luton Airport.

Following our letter sent on the 8th July, we are again writing to voice our strong objections to the proposed expansion of Luton Airport.

On Luton Airport's doorstep, residents from St Albans, Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate are extremely concerned about the upcoming decision.

They are worried about climate change, the strain on our local infrastructure and plagued by aircraft noise.

Whilst the date for the final decision on the expansion may have changed, the facts have not.

Advice from the Climate Change Committee is clear: *"no airport expansions should proceed until a UK-wide capacity management framework is in place to assess annually and, if required, control sector CO2 emissions and non-CO2 effects."*

Advice to the last government from the Climate Change Committee in September 2019 was also clear: not only is aviation likely to be the largest emitter of CO2 by 2050, but that relative emissions from aviation can only be reduced by around 20% using fuel efficiency measures. As such, this proposed 77% increase to Luton Airport capacity fundamentally undermines the UK's obligation to reach Net Zero by 2050.

Ignoring expert climate advice on aviation will inhibit Net Zero commitments. We very much hoped that the extended deadline enabled you to further consider informed recommendations on the matter, but were left feeling unassured in Parliament yesterday.

Airlines, airports and travel operators are one of the biggest single contributors to global emissions. We cannot properly tackle the climate crisis if we continue to expand our airports.

Luton Airport had already breached their aircraft noise limits for three consecutive years up to 2019. Promises of quieter aircrafts have failed to materialise. Instead of improving noise pollution, the new A321neo aircraft actually impedes noise reduction measures designed to protect our communities. Luton Airport has failed to deliver on their promises.

On top of this, the perceived correlation between airport expansion and economic growth fails to consider that despite significant growth in air passenger numbers over the past two decades:

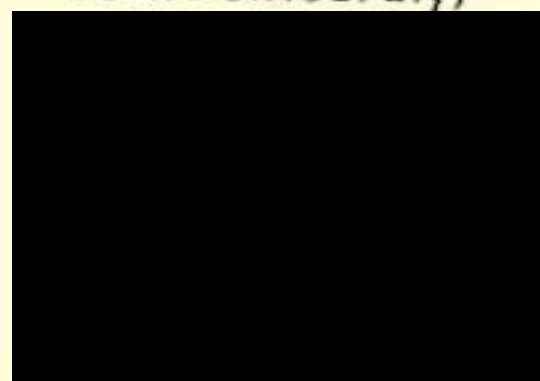
- There has been no net growth in air travel for business purposes.
- There has been no net growth in jobs in air transport.
- Real wages in air transport have fallen significantly.
- The UK's domestic overnight tourism industry has shrunk significantly.
- Growth has primarily driven outbound leisure travel and increased the travel spending deficit, with the greatest spending losses seen in the UK's wider regions.

Encouraging households to spend more money on travel abroad instead of in foundational sectors would undermine the Government's growth mission and displace other, more productive, domestic sectors.

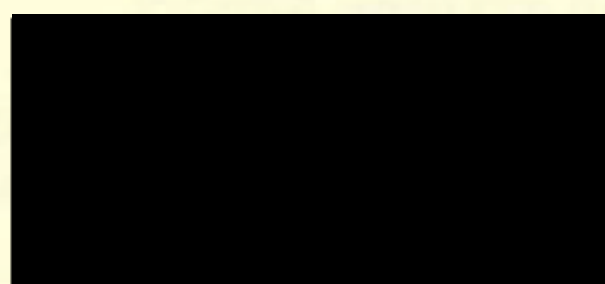
The advice has not changed, our objections have not changed. We urge the government to oppose this expansion before a UK-wide capacity framework is in place.

For the sake of our climate and our constituents, please reject Luton Airport expansion plans.

Yours sincerely,



Daisy Cooper MP
Member of Parliament for St Albans



Victoria Collins MP
Member of Parliament for Harpenden & Berkhamsted