

Anthony Aldridge
[REDACTED]

and

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Directorate
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Temple Quay
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Our ref: NE/2024/136659/01-L02

LPA ref: TR020001

Date: 25 February 2025

Dear Anthony,

Application by London Luton Airport Limited for the London Luton Airport Expansion Project

Luton Airport, 2 Percival Way, Luton, LU2 9LY

We are writing to make you and the Planning Inspectorate aware of new flood and coastal erosion risk data, some of which may affect your project. You may already be aware we are producing new data following the release of our [REDACTED] report in December.

What new data we are publishing and when

On 28 January 2025 we published:

- **New surface water flood risk extents, including a climate change scenario** – may inform flood risk assessments but will require additional assessment as the climate change scenario is likely to fall short of what's needed in planning
- **New surface water flood risk depths, including a climate change scenario** – unlikely to be suitable for use in planning due to the climate change scenario chosen and because of how depth information is derived
- **New coastal erosion risk data** – suitable for use in planning
- **New risk of flooding from rivers and sea data** – not suitable for use in planning because of how flood risk management infrastructure is accounted for and due to the climate change scenario chosen

On 25 March 2025 we will publish further data, all of which will be relevant to planning:

- **Updated Flood Zones**
- **River and sea flood risk extents with defences for both a present day and a climate change scenario** in the 3.3%, 1%/0.5% and 0.1% annual exceedance probability events

- **River and sea flood risk extents without defences for both a present day and a climate change scenario** in the 1%/0.5% and 0.1% annual [REDACTED] exceedance probability events

Following publication, we plan to update flood risk datasets every 3 months and coastal erosion risk datasets every 12 months to take account of any new local models. In 2025/26, flood risk updates may be more or less frequent as the new approach is established.

We also expect to publish further data in due course including:

- Surface water flood risk climate change extents using a climate change scenario more likely to be suitable for use in planning
- Surface water flood risk depth information suitable for use in planning
- River and sea flood depth information for both a present day and a climate change scenario, suitable for use in planning

Where new data will be available

All our new data will be made freely available via the Defra [REDACTED]

The data published in January is available across various services:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The data published in March will be available on the [REDACTED] service. The March data will not be available to you prior to publication.

Our expectations

Once the new data is published we will expect you to assess whether it has any implications for your proposed development. In many cases our understanding of risk will not change significantly, but you will need to confirm to us that this assessment has been completed, and whether any additional assessments or changes to the proposed development are considered necessary in light of the new data.

We will continue to provide advice in response to consultations, following the usual process – including cost recovery. The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 allow us to recover our costs for all stages of the NSIP process from 1 April 2024. Therefore, additional charges may be incurred on submission of any updated information.

In the meantime, where relevant, flood risk and coastal change will be noted as 'outstanding issues' until such time as we are satisfied that the new data has been assessed and any potential impacts considered.

Next steps

Please look out for the data planned for release on 25 March 2025.

We will write to you again when the date for subsequent data releases is known.

Should you have any queries regarding this response, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Specialist – Green Growth and Delivery

Direct dial: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]