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Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

Department for Transport
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17 January 2025

Dear Case Team,

Consultation Response – Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project

I am writing on behalf of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) to provide a response to the consultation on the proposed development of a second runway at Gatwick Airport. As a provider of Urgent & Emergency Care (UEC) services, including emergency ambulance provision, across Surrey, Sussex, Kent and North East Hampshire, SECamb welcomes the opportunity to engage in discussions regarding the potential implications for healthcare and emergency services.

The proposed expansion may impact regional infrastructure, workforce demand, and population movement, all of which could affect UEC services and the wider healthcare system. With SECamb's Trust Headquarters and West Emergency Operations Centre based in Crawley, we remain committed to maintaining emergency response capabilities as the local landscape evolves.

While SECamb does not take a position on whether to support or oppose the project, we would like to highlight several key considerations to ensure that UEC services remain resilient in light of the anticipated changes.

As outlined in the project information provided, an increase in passenger numbers and workforce is expected, which may lead to higher demand for UEC services, including ambulance responses to Gatwick and surrounding areas.

Additionally, during the five-year construction phase and beyond, changes to road infrastructure and increased congestion may impact emergency response times, requiring careful planning to ensure continued, unhindered access for emergency services.



If this project is approved, SECAMB will work with its Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), NHS England, and local healthcare partners to assess and plan for any potential impacts on UEC services and the wider healthcare system, including hospital emergency departments, primary care, and community services.

While we acknowledge Gatwick's 'net zero' ambitions, there are public health considerations, including air quality, noise pollution, and transport infrastructure, which may have long-term implications for local communities. It is important that NHS stakeholders are actively included in discussions about mitigation measures to protect public health.

SECAMB remains committed to working with key stakeholders, including the Department for Transport, NHS England, ICBs, and local government partners, to ensure the healthcare system is adequately prepared for any increase in service demand.

To support this, we seek clarification on the process by which a population health impact assessment will be conducted and how the resultant effects on health and care services will be assessed. This will help us determine how and where to engage most effectively in future discussions. Similarly, we request clarification on how Emergency Preparedness, Resilience, and Response (EPRR) considerations will be factored into the impact assessment and where we should engage on these specific areas of interest.

We welcome further engagement on how NHS services, particularly UEC, can effectively adapt to the anticipated growth, and request specific acknowledgement and clarification on these points, along with guidance on the next steps for our engagement in these areas.

Thank you for considering this response as part of the consultation process. We would be happy to engage further to ensure that the needs of patients, healthcare services, and emergency responders are carefully factored into future planning.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of David Ruiz-Celada.

David Ruiz-Celada

Chief Strategy Officer

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust



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Chair: Usman Khan CEO: Simon Weldon