

**FAO: The Secretary of State for Transport, Heidi Alexander MP**

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as representatives of some of the UK's largest business organisations, to express our unmitigated support for Gatwick Airport's expansion plans and the associated extensive social, economic and cultural benefits it will bring to London and the wider UK.

The Government's approval of Gatwick's fully privately funded Development Consent Order (DCO), allowing its Northern Runway to be used regularly will be a significant step forward for the UK. The expansion is projected to create 14,000 additional jobs, and generate new opportunities for local businesses, ranging from the food & beverage outlets and clothes shops in the terminals to the logistics firms and hotels that rely on the airport for business. The expansion will also open up new career opportunities for those in the surrounding area of the airport, all whilst further unlocking London by allowing Gatwick to serve 75 million passengers per annum by 2038.

The benefit of this expansion will reach far beyond the vicinity of airport. London's status as the world's pre-eminent global city for business, tourism and trade is heavily reliant on the strength of the capital's transport network. The aviation sector, in particular, is vital to both London and the UK's economy as it enables the flow of people, trade, and investment, across the entire country. Without robust aviation links, London risks losing its competitive edge on the international stage.

According to [data](#) from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, four in five London business decision-makers agree that air connectivity is important to London's global competitiveness (83%), international trade (82%), the London economy overall (82%) and building and maintaining international business connections (79%). Furthermore, more than half (52%) said it is important to the day-to-day operations of their business. The UK aviation sector [plays](#) a key role in supporting imports and exports nationwide, with air freight alone contributing £7.2 billion to the UK's economy in 2017, and accounting for up to 40% of UK imports and exports in 2019.

Expansion to Gatwick would therefore further boost the UK's connectivity, granting opportunities for UK firms to expand their operations internationally through trade and investment overseas whilst bolstering the capital's position as a pre-eminent global business hub.

Whilst we fully support this growth, we recognise the importance of balancing it with the UK's long-term climate goals. Gatwick Airport has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development and is actively engaged in efforts to decarbonise the aviation industry. The airport is expanding its use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels and has joined other London Airports in showing leadership in the industry through supporting the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's [Green Skies](#) initiative.

This report, published last year, calls for greater government support to unlock facilities to develop sustainable fuels domestically, and to position the UK as a global leader in sustainable aviation travel.

Gatwick's expansion represents a significant opportunity for the Government to reaffirm its commitment to growth, sustainability and the long term prosperity of the UK. Government approval to the plans would ensure the deliverance of far reaching economic benefits, boost London's economy, drive businesses success, and facilitate increased trade and investment flows across the entire country.

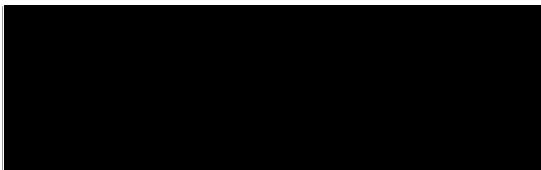
Together, we strongly urge the Government to swiftly grant its approval to this vital expansion to ensure Britain's long-term prosperity at home and internationally.

Yours sincerely,



**Karim Fatehi MBE**

Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)



**Shevaun Haviland**

Director General, British Chambers of Commerce

**Ana Christie**

Chief Executive, Sussex Chamber of Commerce