



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit  
Department for Transport  
C/o The Planning Inspectorate

9 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Re: Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Request for Comments**

I am writing regarding the latest request for information by the Examining Authority and the additional information submitted by Gatwick Airport Limited regarding noise management, operational requirements, and mitigation measures.

As I have previously advocated, the voices of the surrounding communities must be listened to throughout this process. I therefore support a balanced and constructive approach to mitigating the impact on local residents and businesses of beneficial infrastructure development.

Of particular concern are: the impacts of noise and proposed mitigations; surface access requirements and interventions; wastewater infrastructure; and biodiversity.

With regard to this latest consultation, I would make the following points on behalf of my constituents in East Surrey.

**Requirement 15 (Air Noise Limits):** There must be robust measures in place to understand and mitigate adverse noise effects on surrounding communities, and ensure that limits on night noise are adhered to. These noise impacts must be assessed individually, as they vary based on project specifics, and reviewed regularly as the operational activities of the airport change over time.

**Requirement 18 (Receptor-Based Noise Mitigation):** The noise insulation scheme is an important part of mitigating the impacts of current and future noise levels. Eligibility for the scheme must be comprehensive and based on accurate assessment to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit. Any possible adverse impacts of the scheme must also be closely monitored and corrected as appropriate.

**Requirement 20 (Surface Access):** Surface access and sustainable transport requirements must be resolved in a way that does not cause knock-on effects for local residents and businesses. A broad evidence base must be established for proposed changes, and there should be ongoing effective monitoring of impacts. Improvements to public transport infrastructure are welcome, but should be done in a way that benefits the surrounding area and not just the airport. Dual runway operation should not be allowed to commence until surface access obligations have been met.

**Requirement 31 (Wastewater Infrastructure):** Residents are particularly concerned about the impact of expansion on wastewater infrastructure. Dual runway operations should only begin once the wastewater treatment works are fully operational and permitted, ensuring there are no gaps in environmental protection. Effective wastewater management must be in place prior to an increase in passenger numbers.

**Requirement 39 (Tree Replacement):** Protecting nature and enhancing biodiversity are not incompatible with transport infrastructure. Close attention must be paid to ensure that proposed actions will contribute to improvements in biodiversity and the state of the natural environment.

More broadly I would also support calls for more meaningful public engagement and consultation. Early engagement led to a significant amount of correspondence from concerned residents which must be taken into account when decisions are being made.

I understand that a group of local authorities will be providing a detailed, technical response to this consultation. I would urge you to consider this submission carefully and engage with the local authorities to find solutions that will work for the communities that surround the airport.

Yours sincerely,

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*The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP*  
**Member of Parliament for East Surrey**