



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

Our Ref: CC07714

15 July 2025

Dear Heidi Alexander,

Re: Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project

I am writing on behalf of my constituents, Steve Harrison and Lisa Walpole of [REDACTED], who recently contacted me regarding the adverse impact of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway expansion.

Steve and Lisa live less than 1km from the runway site and are identified by Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) as "significantly adversely affected" in the Environmental Statement (para 14.9.103, Chapter 14: Noise & Vibration). While they recognise the potential economic benefits of increased airport capacity, they have clearly articulated why the current mitigation proposals fall short for those most directly affected.

In particular, I would appreciate your response to the following points raised by Steve and Lisa, which reflect broader concerns from the local community:

- GAL's own assessments acknowledge a substantial and long-term increase in noise and vibration, with "major adverse significant effects" expected for some residents.
- The scheme offers no protection for outdoor spaces, which are vital to daily life and wellbeing.
- Any compensation or property purchase scheme is only available after the new runway becomes operational, trapping many residents in blighted homes with falling values.
- The current mitigation package shifts much of the burden onto individuals, both financially and practically.

A further concern is that GAL's reliance on precedents like the Luton DCO fails to reflect the updated World Health Organization Environmental Noise Guidelines, and does not capture the psychological toll of property vibration and frequent 80dB+ events.

Given the Airports National Policy Statement's requirement to avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; and where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life; I am seeking reassurance that these concerns will be taken seriously and that a more robust and fair mitigation package will be put in place before the project progresses.

I urge you to give full and careful consideration to these issues. This development will have a significant and long-lasting impact on a number of my constituents, and it is vital that their concerns are both heard and properly addressed at this stage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Coghlan
Liberal Democrat Member for Dorking & Horley