

Bob Neill MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Chris Evans  
The Daily Telegraph  
111 Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 0DT  
United Kingdom

26 November 2015

Dear Mr Evans,

The Airports Commission's Final Report is being discussed in the Commons today. We believe the case for Heathrow is fast unravelling and London is uniting behind Gatwick.

The Commission's case for Heathrow rests on its interpretation of the economic case put forward by the airport and by PwC. But the validity of the conclusions have been questioned by its own independent economic advisers, Professor John Mackie and Brian Pearce, and, more recently, by the noted economist John Kay, as well as Deloitte. Analysis shows that costs of Gatwick expansion are half those of Heathrow, while delivering comparable economic benefits.

An expanded Gatwick will connect Britain to as many international destinations as a third runway at Heathrow. A second runway would increase connectivity to London from eleven domestic airports to London to fifteen - Heathrow's domestic routes are expected to decrease from seven to four.

We also have concerns on air quality if Heathrow is expanded. Air around Heathrow already breaches EU limits, a situation that would only deteriorate with an additional runway and the additional associated flights and road traffic.

Gatwick's proposals offer us the opportunity to rebalance economic growth in London. By ensuring it expands, the Government will deliver two world-leading airports, ensuring competition remains in the market, delivering cost benefits to business and leisure passengers alike.

Yours,

Bob Neill MP (Bromley and Chislehurst), Co-Chair APPG for London

Steve Reed MP (Croydon North), Co-Chair APPG for London

Stephen Hammond MP (Wimbledon)

Nick Hurd MP (Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner)

Paul Scully MP (Sutton and Cheam)

Andy Slaughter MP (Hammersmith)

Bob Stewart MP (Beckenham)

Steve Norris (Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport and Minister for Transport in London)

Dame Angela Watkinson MP (Hornchurch and Upminster)