



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18 July 2019

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

Dear Chris,

We are concerned to hear that Gatwick Airport, as part of its masterplan, is proposing to bring the standby runway into routine use. This would be a second runway by any other name and would cause many problems for our communities, with thousands of people losing sleep and having their lives blighted by noise.

As you know late last year Gatwick Airport went to consultation on its masterplan, and a number of us responded to share the views of the communities we represent. In this document, growth forecasts were provided which indicate that use of the standby runway would see a 51% growth in passenger numbers, and a 36% growth in air traffic movements compared to the current position. At a time when the infrastructure in and around the Airport is stretched, we are concerned about how deliverable these plans are.

Over the past few years Gatwick Airport has continually under invested in the local amenities and social infrastructure that would be required to support a project of this size and scale. We cannot support expansion of the Airport without a comprehensive investment in the local area which would ease pressure on the over-stretched road and rail systems serving the airport.

In addition, the pressing need to address climate change and environmental issues is in sharp focus and we are concerned that supporting a second runway by default would result in more emissions. This would create health issues for local residents and the growth at the airport over the past 10 years illustrates that the resulting increase in carbon emissions would have clear environmental consequences for us all.

Though we will await to see the Development Consent Order which is brought forward by the airport, we are very concerned about this idea in principle and it is not something which we, as local MPs, are able to support. Growth at Gatwick Airport would mean more noise and emissions and we hope that the Department for Transport will not approve any expansion of the airport.

Best wishes,

Sir Paul Beresford MP, Member of Parliament for Mole Valley

Crispin Blunt MP, Member of Parliament for Reigate

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells

Gillian Keegan MP, Member of Parliament for Chichester

The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames MP, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

Tom Tugendhat MP, Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

CC:

Jeremy Quin MP, Member of Parliament for Horsham

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Member of Parliament for Guildford