

Firstly, paragraphs 114 to 118 of the (former) Department for Communities and Local Government's pre-application guidance sets out the standards required to accept an application for examination: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

In addition to this, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS)) will need to be satisfied that the Environmental Statement (ES) includes at least the information set out in Reg. 14 and Schedule 4 of [The Infrastructure Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) Regulations 2017](#) (EIA Regulations). These include "A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario)" and "A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment".

Ultimately, the SoS in determining any Development Consent Order (DCO) application for EIA development must (under EIA Regulation 21): examine the environmental information, reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment and consider whether it is appropriate to impose monitoring measures. The SoS will need to be satisfied that any DCO only authorises EIA development which has been properly assessed in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

Turning to your last point on potential for 'caps' on growth and the like, the DCO itself may impose Requirements so as to secure and deliver mitigation identified and relied upon in the ES to address potentially significant adverse environmental effects and to ensure that the authorised DCO remains within the parameters of the assessment of environmental effects in the ES.

Whilst the application remains in 'pre-application', you should continue to direct any comments and concerns you may have on the scheme directly to the Applicant - Gatwick Airport Limited – ideally during statutory pre-application consultation exercises to ensure they're appropriately considered and regarded prior to finalising the scheme. Once the application is submitted, if it meets the standards to be accepted for examination, there will be ample opportunities for you to submit written and oral submissions to the appointed Examining Authority on these matters if you still have concerns