

There is a lack of rigorous thinking both in some submissions and more particularly as to the timing and organisation of this application. For example:

It makes no sense to submit an application while the future expansion of the UK's HUB airport, Heathrow, is still uncertain. Until it is, demand for an additional runway at Gatwick cannot be accurately predicted. Indeed it strikes me that this application may have been hustled on because shareholders in GAL have a vested interest in cutting predicted demand for Heathrow expansion. But Heathrow is the HUB and future demand at GAL cannot be predicted accurately until The Heathrow question is settled. GAL's application should be put on hold until then.

FASIS cannot be determined until the demand for flights is known and the noise impact on the wider community determined. The result of FASIS may well impact on the runway decision. Accordingly, the two examinations should be combined as was the case with Luton.

Local businesses are supporting the expansion of Gatwick before it is known what additional business may be generated. Such submissions are based on hope, not evidence

A comparatively minor point maybe but one that should be borne in mind: The UK has just emerged from Covid and, with globalisation and greatly increased immigration it is not yet clear that the world is not entering a pandemic age (viz. monkeypox). Another reason to avoid haste.