

Response to Question R17f.7

The ExA noted the recovered appeal decision (APP/G5750/W/23/3326646) on the variation of conditions to allow expansion of London City Airport was published on 19 August 2024. However, the Gatwick Airport DCO application has no relevance to this decision as those decision-makers in the London City Airport case have chosen to ignore their professional codes of conduct and the nationally and internationally recognised moral and ethical imperatives to give serious consideration to the human, environmental and ecological impact of climate change when carrying out their duties.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court judgement on *Finch v Surrey County Council* does not allow an applicant to rely on the control of emissions by a national control regime, presumably even less so as the High Court found that the aviation emissions are not effectively controlled under the Carbon Reduction Budget Plan as this document was deemed to be unlawful as it does not meet the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. We all know that any regimes drafted by the Conservative administration were not designed for public benefit, to satisfy the Climate Change Act 2008 or to meet the Paris Agreement, but to satisfy the private and business interests of MP's, peers and donors.

The Gatwick Airport team has attempted to deconstruct all the legal, economic and scientific arguments against the DCO but consideration of neither the London City Airport decision nor the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway enquiry to date has given adequate consideration to moral and ethical perspectives of this proposal. To consider a development of this magnitude, with the long-term downstream GHG emissions involved and the evidence of the global impact on the climate available on our television and phone screens daily, only within the parameters of biased government policies is blinkered and shortsighted. This submission outlines below the published documents that express the moral and ethical standards on which consensus has been agreed by UNESCO, Christian leaders, the Dalai Lama, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the UK government Independent Advisory Committee on Standards in Public Life, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Institute of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Acoustics.

I appeal to the Inspectorate to give serious regard to the ethical considerations of this application with reference to the several sources below and grant significant weight to transport, climate change and air quality in the planning balance, bringing back a sense of moral courage to your public service.

UNESCO DECLARATION OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that promotes peace and security through international cooperation. UNESCO has long-standing experience in environmental ethics, supported by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), created in 1998. As an advisory body and a forum for reflection, COMEST has published a series of reports over the past decade, that have helped to inform public debate. Its 2015 report served as the basis for the *Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change*.

In order to help Member States and other stakeholders to make appropriate decisions and implement effective policies for sustainable development, adaptation to climate change and the mitigation of its negative effects, UNESCO adopted a *Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change* in November 2017.

Ethics constitute the substantial core of any commitment. As a mobilizing force, ethics can steer action, facilitate arbitration, resolve conflicting interests, and establish priorities. Ethics have the capacity to connect theory with practice, general principles with political will, and global awareness with local actions.

The Declaration adopted by UNESCO is based on six ethical principles:

1. *Prevention of harm*: To better anticipate the consequences of climate change and implement responsible and effective policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through low greenhouse gas emissions development and initiatives to foster climate resilience.
2. *Precautionary approach*: Do not postpone the adoption of measures to prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the grounds of a lack of definitive scientific evidence.
3. *Equity and justice*: Respond to climate change in a way that benefits all, in a spirit of justice and equity. Allow those who are unjustly affected by climate change (due to insufficient measures or inadequate policies) to access judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy.
4. *Sustainable development*: Adopt new paths for development that make it possible to sustainably preserve our ecosystems, while building a more just and responsible society that is more resilient to climate change. Special attention must be paid to areas where the humanitarian consequences of climate change can be dramatic, such as food, energy, water insecurity, the oceans, desertification, land degradation and natural disasters.
5. *Solidarity*: Support, individually and collectively, the people and groups most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Strengthen timely co-operative action in various areas, including technology development and transfer, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.
6. *Scientific knowledge and integrity in decision-making*: Strengthen the interface between science and policy to optimally aid decision-making and the implementation of relevant long-term strategies, including risk prediction. Promote the independence of science and widely disseminate its findings to as many people as possible, for the benefit of all.

Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Archbishop of Canterbury, JOINT MESSAGE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CREATION

For the first time, in 2021 the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion jointly urged everyone to play their part in 'choosing life' for the future of the planet. They quote from the Bible, 'choose life, so that you and your children may live' (Dt 30:19) and remind us that choosing life means making sacrifices and exercising self-restraint.

The message reminded us that, 'multiple crises faced globally present us with a choice. We are in a unique position either to address them with shortsightedness and profiteering or seize this as an opportunity for conversion and transformation'.

The statement calls:

- For individuals: To make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resources

- For those with far-reaching responsibilities: To choose people-centred profits and lead the transition to just and sustainable economies

QUAKER FAITH & PRACTICE

Quakers, also known as 'members of the Religious Society of Friends' are an open and socially progressive community in Britain meeting since the mid-17th Century. In contrast to the churches quoted above, Quakers use their business methods as a form of group decision-making and discernment, as well as of direct democracy, to produce guidance on matters of concern.

- We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life.
Advices & Queries No 42
- We ... call for unprecedented international cooperation to enable the large cuts in global emissions which are required. This will be a difficult road to travel but we are prepared to support decision-makers in taking the radical steps necessary. We appreciate progress made and uphold decision-makers as they navigate conflicting priorities, yet we challenge them to hold faith with the goal and not bend to short-term expediency.

Britain Yearly Meeting 2009

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN 2020

The Dalai Lama said in a spoken address, 'Basically our selfish, self-centred attitude thinking only of me, my nation, my group is very narrow-minded. The reality is that the future of the whole world, of seven billion human beings, is interdependent. Now the time has come to think of the whole of humanity...and the whole world. Global warming is really very, very serious. It's not just an abstract idea but on a practical level we are now really facing a lot of problems. Rich people, who stay in big hotels, may not feel it's a serious problem but poor people, they face really face serious problems. Therefore, we should now pay more attention to global warming'.

NOLAN PRINCIPLES: THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

The Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life apply to anyone who works as a public officeholder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the Civil Service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and in the health, education, social and care services. All public officeholders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources in contrast to directors of businesses such as GAL, whose duty is to their shareholders.

The relevant principles that apply in this situation are:

- Selflessness
Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest, rather than private interests. In relation to the Gatwick expansion, consideration of public interest will have to weigh up the economic benefit versus the environmental damage globally.

- Objectivity
Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. Several speakers at the Open Floor Hearing on 2 May gave detailed evidence about the negative global impact of climate change, as well as written submissions to the enquiry.

ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE, CODE OF CONDUCT

The Royal Town Planning Institute, as constituted by Royal Charter, exists to advance the science and art of planning for the benefit of the public. To achieve this the Chartered Institute requires planning professionals to meet and maintain high standards of competence and conduct themselves in a way that inspires trust and confidence in the profession.

Under this published code, the Chartered Institute requires its members to adhere to five core principles, and outlines the required standards, ethics and professional behaviour integral to these. These requirements apply regardless of any permission or agreement to the contrary by or with the client or body employing or consulting any member.

The five principles are:

- Honesty and integrity
- Professional competence
- Independent professional judgement
- Professional practice and duties
- Professional behaviour and respect

Under Professional behaviour and respect, it states that RTPI members must at all times act in a way which promotes and encourages equity and inclusion and the principles of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must not discriminate on the basis of any other status.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights of our generation, posing a serious risk to the fundamental rights to life, health, food and an adequate standard of living of individuals and communities across the world.

INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) has provided a Code of Professional Conduct to lay down the standards of professional conduct and ethical behaviour by which its members should abide. The code applies to all its members. The Code contains the specific Rules of Professional Conduct to which members must adhere as well as outlining the Duty to Behave Ethically.

The duty upon members of the ICE to behave ethically is, in effect, the duty to behave honourably; in modern words, 'to do the right thing'. Being a member of the ICE is a badge of probity and good faith, and members should do nothing that in any way could diminish the high standing of the profession.

Members of the ICE should always be aware of their overriding responsibility to the public good. A member's obligations to the client can never override this, and members of the ICE should not enter undertakings which compromise this responsibility. The 'public good' includes care and respect for humanity's cultural, historical and archaeological heritage, in addition to the duties specified in the Rules of Professional Conduct to protect the health and well-being of present and future generations and to show due regard for the environment and for the sustainable management of natural resources.

The Rules of Professional Conduct include that:

- All members shall have full regard for the public interest, particularly in relation to matters of health and safety, and in relation to the well-being of future generations.
- All members shall show due regard for the environment and for the sustainable management of natural resources.

INSTITUTE OF ACOUSTICS, CODE OF CONDUCT

In the Articles of Association of the Institute of Acoustics there is a general requirement for members to be bound to further the aims of the Institute to the best of their abilities. A Code of Conduct, designed to embody broad ethical principles, is drawn up in general terms whilst the Rules of Conduct indicate the manner in which members are required to conduct themselves in most situations. For situations not specifically encompassed by the Rules, the principle to be followed is that, in any conflict between a member's personal interests and those of the wider community, the latter should take precedence.

All members of the Institute shall at all times:

- so order their conduct as to uphold the reputation of the profession and of the Institute and of its members and officers.
- safeguard the public interest in matters of safety, health and the environment.
- exercise their professional skill and judgement to the best of their ability.
- discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity, honesty and diligence.
- treat all persons fairly and with respect.

The Rules then state that under the principle of Public interest, 'Members shall act in accordance with the principles of sustainability and not do anything, or permit anything to be done under their authority, of which the probable and involuntary consequences would, in their professional judgement:

- endanger human life or safety; or
- expose valuable property to the risk of destruction or serious damage; or
- needlessly pollute the environment except when legally authorised to do so.'