



The Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Rd  
London  
SW1P 4DR

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing as Members of Parliament representing constituencies in Sussex, Surrey and Kent which would be affected by Gatwick Airport Ltd.'s (GAL) proposal to bring the emergency runway into commercial use.

To take this country's climate commitments seriously, airport expansion should wait until a national capacity and emissions management framework is in place. The government's approach should reflect the fact that aviation is one of the biggest single contributors to global emissions.

Further, we have a number of concerns about the impact that Gatwick expansion would have upon the lives of our constituents:

Should these proposals for Gatwick go ahead – with existing noise levels already leading to more than 1,000 noise complaints a month in peak season – there would be serious consequences for our residents who will be subject to higher levels of noise, air and light pollution.

As it stands there is no commitment to improve the capacity of surface transport to support movements to and from the airport. Both the Brighton mainline and the M23 would need considerable public sector investment to increase their capacity.

Gatwick relies on a single major road (M23). The proposed new road infrastructure may serve the airport, but it does not benefit local residential streets, which will see a significant increase in passengers, workers, and freight traffic trying to circumvent congestion on major routes.

Finally, throughout the consultation and Development Consent Order process, we have been concerned by the way GAL has engaged with local stakeholders. Local authorities have repeatedly asked GAL to engage in a more constructive and timely manner. Prior to the general election several Members of the previous Parliament made representations to the then Transport Secretary to this effect. We fully endorse those concerns.

Considering these issues, we think that the proposals to expand Gatwick should be halted. We would be grateful if we could arrange a meeting with you and your team so that we can discuss them in greater detail.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Alison Bennett MP**

Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

**John Milne MP**

Member of Parliament for Horsham

**Chris Coghlan MP**

Member of Parliament for Dorking and Horley

**Josh Babarinde MP**

Member of Parliament for Eastbourne

**James MacCleary MP**

Member of Parliament for Lewes

**Mike Martin MP**

Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells

**Jess Brown-Fuller MP**

Member of Parliament for Chichester