

July 2016

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# TAKE OFF SPECIAL



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# AUTUMN RUNWAY DECISION

It is very likely the Government will announce its decision on a new runway in the autumn. The Department for Transport has said there will be no decision before October at the earliest but the new transport secretary Chris Grayling made clear he is keen to make it as early as possible and could go for September. There seems little doubt, too, that it will be a clear-cut decision: permission will be given for either a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow, Heathrow Hub or a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway at Gatwick. The decision is too close to call. Philip Hammond, the chancellor, has backed Gatwick in the past; cabinet members Justine Greening and Boris Johnson are known opponents of a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway; and Theresa May herself, whose Maidenhead constituency is under the flight paths, has been no fan of Heathrow expansion over the years. In 2009 she said:



Over 50 campaigners outside Downing St remind Theresa May she has the power to stop a third runway

*“A third runway will result in thousands of additional flights, increased noise and more pollution for thousands of people. The Government’s promises on the environmental impact of this are not worth the paper they are written on – there are no planes currently on the market that would allow them to meet their noise and carbon dioxide targets. We need a better Heathrow, not a bigger Heathrow.”*

However, Heathrow has been making much of the fact the current proposal is very different from the 2009 version in that it includes many more measures to assist residents. Sir Howard Davies, who headed up the Airports Commission, has said publically that he believes that neither Theresa May nor Philip Hammond are intractably opposed to a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow. So, we can probably expect either a decision for Heathrow, accompanied by tough conditions (including something on night flights which Theresa May has never liked), or a green light for a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway at Gatwick. Either decision is likely to get the backing of a majority of MPs in Parliament given their desire to see a new runway built. A decision will be followed by a public consultation on the noise and air pollution impacts of the new airport.

**We are suggesting you write personal letters to Theresa May – see next page**

**And mark the date of our AGM: 28th September – details overleaf**

# WRITING TO THERESA MAY

**Below are some points you can make but we suggest you write an individual letter in your own words as these have a lot more impact**

- **Total costs will be over £36 billion- and the taxpayer may have to pay half!** Heathrow pays the cost of the runway (£17bn) but has said it will only contribute £1.1bn towards the costs of the road and rail infrastructure, including putting part of the M25 in a tunnel. Those costs are put at anything from £5-6bn (Airport Commission's estimate) to £18bn (Transport for London's estimate).
- **Heathrow aircraft noise already affects more than 725,000 people.** That puts Heathrow in a noise league of its own. 28% of all people impacted by aircraft in Europe live under the Heathrow flight paths. New flights needed for a new runway could put that figure to over 1 million, bringing discomfort, particularly to children and older people whose health could be affected.
- **Pollution levels around London already are greater than most European cities.** The promised cleaner aircraft will not in themselves be enough to ensure air pollution around Heathrow remains below the required legal limits. There will also need to be a big push to get rid of diesel cars. At present the plans to do that are only in their infancy. Heathrow's offer to use the new runway to its full capacity only if air pollution problems are solved will be difficult to square with their need to get the best return they can on their £17bn investment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway
- **Over 700 hundred homes would have to be demolished** and Heathrow is also prepared to buy up a total of nearly 4,000 as noise levels close to any new runway would be high.
- **Heathrow has put aside £700m to pay for noise insulation but....**experts believe this could easily rise to as much as £2bn if double glazing, roof and wall insulation is included
- **Just 13.2% of Britons back a 3rd runway at Heathrow.** Some London councils are threatening to take legal action if a decision on Heathrow gets the go ahead. And opposition to a new runway remains huge. Even Heathrow's own polls suggest it runs into millions across London and the South East. A 3<sup>rd</sup> runway may simply not be deliverable.

## HACAN Annual General Meeting

St Anne's Church Hall, Kew Green, Kew Rd, TW9 3AA

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September  
7.00pm**

**Formalities at the AGM are kept to a minimum to allow plenty of time for discussion.**

There is some parking available. The nearest stations are Kew Gardens and Kew (both about a 7 minute walk). The 391 and 65 buses stop nearby.

**Also add personal details of your own.** Spell out, for example, how it affects your life living under a flight path or your fears of living under a flight path for the first time if a new runway is built.

**It is worth copying in Transport Secretary Chris Grayling to your letter or email:**

**The Prime Minister,  
Theresa May,**  
10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA  
Email: <https://email.number10.gov.uk>

**The Secretary of State for Transport,  
Chris Grayling,**  
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR  
Email: [TransportSecretary@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:TransportSecretary@dft.gsi.gov.uk)