**Press Release**

12 February 2025

*For immediate use*

**HEATHROW PLANS NOT A QUICK FIX**

Campaigners have highlighted that the latest announcement from the Government on Heathrow expansion cannot be the quick fix to the economy that the government appears keen to imply.

In an announcement to be made today (12 February), the government will say a new multibillion-pound investment programme from Heathrow Airport is expected to secure thousands of UK steel jobs. Yet final sign-off for Heathrow’s expansion plans are at least half a decade away, and several years will elapse after that before any purchase of construction materials.

It is also expected that Heathrow will announce a programme for new terminal buildings, aircraft stands, passenger infrastructure and two of the world’s largest ever car parks, as part of its expansion plans, following the Chancellor’s statement supporting a third runway last month.

**Ahead of the announcement, Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:**

"How peculiar for the government to suggest supporting a project that hasn’t even submitted a planning application, and can’t be approved until well beyond this parliament’s lifetime, will kickstart economic growth.

“As for any construction or purchase of steel, that would be at least over half a decade away, and the project may yet prove uninvestable as several of Heathrow’s airline customers have averred. After all, the costs of demolishing villages, diverting roads and rivers and tunnelling over the M25’s busiest junction, to increase Heathrow’s size by an area that is larger than Birmingham International Airport, promises to be inordinately expensive.

“There seems something almost Orwellian about this announcement, and this is only re-affirmed by its decision to cite a report commissioned by Heathrow itself, as evidence of the project’s possible benefits – rather than the government’s own Treasury assessment which concluded that once the ‘disbenefits’ had been taken into account, the project’s maximum economic benefit to the UK would be somewhere between £3.3bn and minus £2.2bn over 60 years".

***ENDS.***

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