

## **PRESS RELEASE**

11 December 2020

*For immediate use*

### **HEATHROW SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT NEXT WEEK**

The Supreme Court has announced that it will hand down its judgment on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December that will decide whether plans to expand Heathrow were lawful or not. The judgment will be delivered virtually due to the pandemic, at 9.45am (1).

The Court of Appeal ruled in February this year that the Government's Airports National Policy Statement was not lawful as it did not take into account the UK's commitments under the Paris climate change agreement when it put its plans to expand Heathrow to Parliament in 2018. The Government decided not to appeal the ruling, however Heathrow launched an appeal to the Supreme Court which was heard in October (2).

Plan B Earth, an environmental law charity and Friends of the Earth, are defending the ruling and assert that the Secretary of State (Chris Grayling) should have taken the UK's climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement into account given the impact that expanding aviation has on legal carbon emissions compliance levels.

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

*"Our large membership would clearly prefer the Supreme Court to uphold the earlier judgment, to kibosh Heathrow's self-interested plans once and for all. But whatever it declares, Heathrow expansion cannot proceed. Because, putting aside their investors' lack of appetite to find new money, even to maintain the airport as a going concern through the pandemic, expanding Heathrow no longer ticks any of the boxes.*

*"Since the Airports Commission recommended Heathrow expansion, five years ago, the world has changed and the assessments on noise, air quality and carbon have been exposed as inadequate. Moreover, as the Government's climate advisers have made clear just this month, expanding Heathrow in the already advantaged South East of England will exact a heavy price in other regions around the country. And it is no longer politically acceptable to assault the regions in this manner".*

ENDS.

Notes

1. <https://twitter.com/UKSupremeCourt/status/1337012400265064451>
2. <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2020-0042.html>

**Representatives from the No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition available for interview, both at the Supreme Court, online, or elsewhere. Please get in touch to arrange.**

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