Press Release

1 May 2024

*For immediate use*

**Government: “3rd runway looking as though it will not go ahead”**

The Government have admitted that it is looking as though a 3rd runway at Heathrow “will not go ahead”, citing a lack of contribution to finance the project from the private sector (1).

Transport Minister Huw Merriman told a parliamentary debate on Tuesday (30 April) that “Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd is now not actively pursuing expansion given its focus on recovery following the impact of the pandemic on the aviation sector. This of course had an impact on the financial contribution from the private sector.”

Mr Merriman cited the Government’s commitment that Heathrow expansion “remains a private sector project that must meet strict criteria on air quality, noise and climate change, as well as being privately financed, affordable and in the best interests of consumers.”

Campaigners believe that if the project is now officially stalled, which is slightly contrary to recent statements by Heathrow Airport itself (2), then a memorandum of understanding must be passed to not permit expansion at the airport for a certain number of years in order to give local communities a rest from the ongoing blight which they face from continued threats to their homes and communities.

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

*“The time really has come to put an end to the ongoing blight, caused to so many residents, by Heathrow’s continued quest for a third runway. If even the Government acknowledges that it’s now very unlikely to happen, peace of mind should be restored to the vast numbers who live around the airport and beneath its flight paths – by ruling out the prospect of this extremely damaging project once and for all.”*

**ENDS.**

Notes:

1. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-04-30/debates/F8E663E1-B6F6-41D7-BEB5-5C3BC393A6C2/HeathrowAirportWesternRailLink>

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/heathrow-passengers-flights-third-runway-b1153511.html>

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