

NO 3RD RUNWAY COALITION

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FIGURES SHOW MASSIVE CARBON INCREASE IN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS WITH EXPANDED HEATHROW

- **Campaigners call for Scottish Government not to become complicit in delivering a huge emission increase by supporting Heathrow expansion**

The expansion of Heathrow would create 600,000 additional tonnes of carbon emissions by 2040, analysis by the Scottish Government has confirmed (1). This would happen as a result of more than 5,000 additional flights per year, or an additional 605,000 return trips, between Scottish Airports and London Heathrow, were the airport ever to be expanded.

The figures were revealed in a Freedom of Information request of the Scottish Government's analysis of the environmental impact to Scotland of Heathrow expansion (1).

Nicola Sturgeon's Government have supported the plans in the past (2), but the project is seen as increasingly obstructive to the recently passed Climate Change Act 2019, which sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest and interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040 (3).

Unlike the UK Government, Scottish emissions figures include those from aviation and shipping. The SNP group in the UK Parliament abstained in a parliamentary vote on expanding Heathrow in June 2018.

The First Minister announced in May 2019 that in light of the declaration of a climate emergency, support for Heathrow expansion is being reviewed as part of a root and branch review of all the Scottish Government's policies.

Ms. Sturgeon said that "*...the climate emergency, the updated advice from the Committee on Climate Change, our updated responsibilities, not just to meet but to exceed the obligations in the Paris Agreement, meant we need to review all of that. That's exactly what the Government is doing*" (4). It is expected that the climate review will report in "early 2020" (5).

This information, along with other recent developments such as the delay of any opening of a third runway back by nearly four years to "late 2029" (for financial and environmental

reasons – see notes 6 and 7), leaves fewer reasons for the Scottish Government to continue its support for the scheme.

Rob Barnstone, Coordinator of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:

“The Scottish Government’s own figures are alarming. Support for Heathrow expansion must be withdrawn now.

“It is clear as crystal that it is not possible to support expansion at Heathrow and meet requirements to have net zero society target by 2045.

“Does the Government want its commitments so recklessly undermined because of an expansion of airport in London?

“Whilst aviation is not a devolved issue, the Scottish Government has a role to play in ensuring its own climate change legislation is met. It should be calling for the third runway or any other new runway to be scrapped immediately.”

ENDS.

Notes:

1. FOI Request, January 2020 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-19-02661/>
2. <https://news.gov.scot/news/support-for-heathrow-expansion>
3. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/reducing-emissions/>
4. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/18149496.nicola-sturgeon-defends-stance-heathrow-airport-expansion/>
5. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/low-carbon-living/>
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/13c97730-226d-11ea-92da-f0c92e957a96>
7. <http://stopheathrowexpansion.co.uk/press-releases-1/2020/1/7/heathrow-hiding-real-reason-for-new-consultation>

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