

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

TRUSS COMMENTS ON HEATHROW EXPANSION

At Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday, Prime Minister Liz Truss said that she agreed with recent comments made by the transport secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan, who said she was supportive of expansion of the country's biggest airport (1). Previously, Truss had advocated four runways at Heathrow in the book, *Britannia Unchained* she co-authored with other Conservative MPs in 2012.

But campaigners believe that Truss will soon discover that expansion at Heathrow is not the answer, that there are even more caveats than the Secretary of State identified; and that a National Aviation Strategy will be required if regional aviation and economic opportunity are not to be overlooked.

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

"Whatever this new administration and Transport Secretary might say now, facts are likely to steer government away from Heathrow expansion.

"After all, with forecasts that Heathrow Expansion would lead to a loss of activity at regional airports, even embedded in the policy document originally supporting Heathrow's growth, and the Climate Change Committee calculating that Heathrow Expansion might require the closure of some regional airports, it is becoming clear that a National Aviation Strategy is required.

"Indeed, it is difficult to see how any responsible government would allow the interests of the regions to be so inadvertently overlooked by ploughing on with Heathrow, regardless".

ENDS.

Notes:

1. The Prime Minister was asked the question by Sarah Olney, the Lib Dem MP for Richmond Park.
2. Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan told a fringe event at the Conservative Party Conference that *"I'm a supporter [of a third runway] ...but there are challenges that Heathrow have to meet, to meet those air quality challenges before they progress that runway. It's in Heathrow's remit to be able to meet those challenges."* Speaking at a Conservative Home fringe event; The Aviation Conversation, Mon 3 Oct 22 (sponsored by various airports, including Heathrow).

For more information:

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