**PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargo 00:01 25th February 2020**

# Heathrow expansion to cost the regions £43bn

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# Government figures show that 3rd runway will divert jobs and GDP from regions into London and South East

# Heathrow expansion does not fit with the Government’s “levelling-up” agenda

A new report by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) shows that Heathrow expansion will result in around 27,000 jobs relocating from the UK’s wider regions to London and the South East (1).

The movement of jobs will impact on the national distribution of GDP, around £43 billion (net present value) will move out of the regions and into London and the South East. The data is based on Government data secured by a number of FOI requests. (2)

Every region of the UK will lose out but the greatest impact will be felt in the North West and West Midlands if expansion goes ahead. By 2050:

* The North West will lose up to **£14bn in GDP growth** and **15,000 jobs**
* The West Midlands over £18bn in GDP and **5,000 jobs.**

The impact of expansion would also effectively transfer £3.3bn worth of emissions out of other regions and nations of the UK and into London between 2030 and 2050. This would place an even greater burden on the economies and people of the regions to decarbonise at an even faster rate than currently planned.

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

*“We have long argued that Heathrow expansion will inflict blight to millions of people across London and the surrounding areas. We’ve also warned the regions of the UK not to be persuaded by promises of economic growth tomorrow that simply won’t be delivered.*

*“It is incredible that the Government figures in this report had to be obtained through FOI requests. They clearly demonstrate that Government has known that what little economic benefit is created by expansion will only benefit London and the South East. The fact that half the jobs lost not directly associated with the aviation sector which indicates the wider negative impacts on regional economies.*

*“It’s now vital for Government comes clean to Parliament about the economic damage caused by expansion. They should withdraw the Airports National Policy Statement and reassess their airport capacity strategy for the whole country.”*

**Dr Alex Chapman, researcher at the New Economics Foundation, said:**

*“When the decision to approve Heathrow expansion went in front of parliament, MPs were given virtually no information on the distribution of costs and benefits across the UK’s wider regions. Our three Freedom of Information requests show that the Department for Transport could, and should, have given a far more detailed picture.*

*“We already know that expanding Heathrow throws fuel on the fires of the climate emergency. This new data shows it is also likely to drive regional inequality in the UK economy. Heathrow expansion moves jobs and productivity to London and the south-east and, in a carbon capped world, it also threatens our ability to deliver a just transition for workers. With the majority of workers in other carbon intensive sectors based outside London and the south-east, this represents a double blow to the regions.”*

*ENDS.*

**NOTES**

1. The full report, Baggage Claim: The Regional Impact of Heathrow’s Third Runway is available here: <https://533d67b8-cd8c-4b9c-be04-d9f1956466a9.filesusr.com/ugd/8b8ad1_4cd4c5871f1040dd8fe550d8f0884834.pdf>
2. The data underpinning the calculations is derived primarily from the Department for Transport’s 2017 Aviation Forecasts, and three FOIs (referenced: F0017657, P0017641, P0017549).

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