

Press Release

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CALL FOR COMPETITION & MARKETS AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE HEATHROW

The No 3rd Runway Coalition has today written to Lord (Andrew) Tyrie, the new chair of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), asking why the proposed expansion of Heathrow has not been scrutinised by the competition authorities (1).

Heathrow is, by far, already the largest and busiest airport in the country. And with even proponents of the scheme accepting that Heathrow expansion would impact significantly on the smaller regional airports in the market, the letter suggests that competition authorities have found themselves exposed as inert.

The letter suggests this is particularly surprising, considering that the Competition Commission (the antecedent authority of the CMA) had stated that Heathrow already enjoyed such "substantial market power" that it would require further review and regulation, in future - even without a third runway.

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

"In the recent past, competition authorities have claimed Heathrow has substantial market power that ought to be kept in check. So it would be interesting to learn how Lord Tyrie thinks building a third runway will keep Heathrow in check. And how, even when the government accepts that an expanded Heathrow will mean less traffic at the UK's regional airports, Heathrow expansion will create a fairer and more competitive market".

ENDS.

Notes

1. Letter attached to this email
2. The Competition and Markets Authority, which superseded the Competition Commission, and came into existence in 2013, is a non-ministerial government department whose aim is "to make markets work well for consumers, businesses and the economy.
3. Andrew Tyrie was ennobled. Previously he had been MP for Chichester (1997 - 2017), most notably serving as Chair of the Treasury Select Committee (2010 - 2015). He was ennobled in 2017, sits as a crossbencher, and his appointment as Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority was confirmed in April 2018.

4. The No 3rd Runway Coalition represents those leading the fight against a 3rd Runway, incl. Residents Groups from across and beyond London, environmental and aviation organisations, GLA members, councillors, MPs, and Borough Councils (incl. those taking legal action - Hillingdon, Richmond, Wandsworth, Windsor & Maidenhead).

For further information:

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