

**PRESS RELEASE**

10 March 2019

*For immediate use*

**SENIOR POLITICIANS TO ATTEND HIGH COURT AS LEGAL ACTIONS  
BEGIN AGAINST HEATHROW EXPANSION**

Senior politicians, including John McDonnell and Boris Johnson will join claimants, campaigners, residents and NGOs outside the High Court on Monday morning to campaign against Heathrow expansion as legal action launched by the Mayor of London and others begins a two-week hearing (1).

Mr McDonnell and Mr Johnson will be joined by Labour colleague Andy Slaughter, Conservative Zac Goldsmith and Baroness Susan Kramer, as well as leaders of London local authorities and environmental organisations to send a message that Heathrow expansion is wrong for the UK. The legal action comprises of five main parties. One party includes the Mayor of London, five local authorities (Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham and Windsor & Maidenhead) and Greenpeace UK. Other parties include friends of the Earth, Plan B Earth, Twickenham resident Neil Spurrier and Heathrow Hub Ltd.

The rolled-up hearings, expected to last until 22 March, will begin with two days of evidence from the Mayor of London, local authorities and Greenpeace, before moving to Friends of the Earth and Plan B Earth on Wednesday 13 March. The Government's lawyers will respond from Thursday 14 March (2).

Beginning on 19 or 20 March the challenge from Heathrow Hub Ltd, who proposed extending the existing northern runway at Heathrow and was considered alongside Gatwick Airport as potential schemes for the Government to support instead of a third runway at Heathrow will begin. This challenge will look at whether or the decision making inside Government that led to support for the Heathrow third runway scheme was fair or not.

**Rob Barnstone, Coordinator of the No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition, said:**

*"Heathrow expansion was wrong 10 years ago and is wrong now. Not just for people around west London but for the whole of the United Kingdom.*

*"Before us is an environment-wrecking project that is set to be doomed from the moment the first spades are in the ground.*

*"Heathrow expansion is not fit for purpose and will only deliver toxic air-quality for Londoners, a failure to meet our national climate change obligations, no long term economic benefits for the UK, stifled growth at regional airports right across the UK, especially in northern and south-western England, an absence of high-skilled, long term jobs, and thousands of homes destroyed or rendered unliveable.*

*"We deserve better from our Government than to be supporting this project with so little to gain in return. They should support our environment instead."*

**ENDS.**

Notes:

1. The No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition is available for interview outside the High Court on 11 March – contact info below.
2. The legal challenge begins at the High Court on the Strand, London at 10.15am 11 March in Court 76. A timetable of the action is attached to this release. Claimants, politicians and campaigners will assemble for speeches and pictures from 8.45am

For more information on anything mentioned in the statement, please contact Rob Barnstone on either 07806 947050 or email [rob@no3rdrunwaycoalition.co.uk](mailto:rob@no3rdrunwaycoalition.co.uk)