**PRESS RELEASE**

19 May 2018

**For immediate use**

**HEATHROW ROYAL WEDDING PR STUNT EXPOSED**

It was supposed to be a clever PR stunt designed to make the world think positively about Heathrow, in the final few weeks before a crunch vote by MPs on whether or not to expand the airport.

The Heathrow PR team had been briefing the media for the past few months that commercial flights in and out of the airport would be diverted on the day of the Royal Wedding (1), so that the occasion would pass without planes drowning out the ceremony every 45 – 90 seconds; the typical gap between flights during the day at Heathrow.

Yet it has been revealed that the planes will not fly over Windsor for just fifteen minutes, timed to coincide with the arrival of Meghan Markle (1). The rest of the day, including the service itself, will in fact see normal operations over Windsor and surrounding areas. Much of the world’s media gathered in Windsor which are broadcasting throughout the day are likely to find their broadcasts less, not more audible thanks to the interruptions from the operations of Heathrow.

**Rob Barnstone, coordinator of the No 3rd Runway Coalition (2) which campaigns against more flights across Berkshire, London and Surrey, said:**

*“Heathrow have been found out with this cheap PR stunt. This was never about making the Royal Wedding day more pleasant for anyone. It was a cynical attempt to present the airport in a positive light as it tries to persuade MPs to vote for a third runway in the next month or so. It has failed.”*

Ends.

Notes:

1. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/5549690/prince-harry-meghan-markle-wedding-plane-banned/> 13 March 2018
2. <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/royal-wedding-heathrow-planes-diverted_uk_5aff234ee4b0a046186b70c2> 19 May 2018
3. <https://www.no3rdrunwaycoalition.co.uk/members>

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