

**PRESS RELEASE**

**4 October 2018**

***For immediate use***

**Heathrow legal challenges reach next hurdle**

Five legal challenges against the Government's plans to expand Heathrow have reached the next legal hurdle and will proceed to a full judicial review in March 2019.

Justice Holgate confirmed, in a hearing at the High Court on Thursday, that the cases lodged by five different parties would be heard over 10 days in March 2019 (1).

The five parties are:

- A consortium of local authorities (Hillingdon, Hammersmith & Fulham, Richmond, Wandsworth and Windsor & Maidenhead), Greenpeace and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.
- Heathrow Hub Limited (promoters of a rival scheme to expand Heathrow)
- Friends of the Earth
- Plan B, an environmental justice organisation
- Neil Spurrier - a resident of Twickenham, Middlesex

Due to the size of the cases, amount of paperwork involved, and the public interest in the case, the hearings in March will be heard by two judges and will be heard in the largest courtroom at the Royal Courts of Justice. It was also noted that a separate courtroom may have to be used as overspill, with a TV link to the main proceedings, also due to levels of interest.

***Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition, said:***

*"These legal challenges are of the Government's own making.*

*It is not insignificant that the judge has permitted all five claimants to proceed to judicial review. In addition to the claim from several councils and the London Mayor, the four other claims raise some serious points of law.*

*"If the government had not ignored available evidence in their blinkered enthusiasm to expand this already highly disruptive airport, parliament would not have supported the proposal, and these actions would not have been necessary."*

***John McDonnell MP, who addressed opponents of Heathrow expansion, gathered in solidarity outside the High Court, said:***

*"The third runway project is increasingly recognised as a non-runner. The Government needs to listen this time and time again and stop wasting taxpayers' money in another failing Grayling project.*

*"A Government that prevents Heathrow going ahead will send a message that we are serious about climate change, serious about creating a zero-carbon economy and the development of our transport network will not be concentrated in one part of the country."*

ENDS.

Notes:

1. See attached briefing for more background information on the claimants and cases.

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