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## **Press Release: 9 September 2020**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GACC URGES MPs TO ENSURE AVIATION INDUSTRY IS REFORMED**

- House of Commons aviation debate on 10 September is an opportunity for MPs to insist the aviation industry starts to take responsibility for its environmental and noise impacts
- Knee-jerk tax reductions, industry-specific taxpayer support and compromising on public health would not be defensible policies
- Instead the government should start to regulate the industry effectively and ensure it makes a fair contribution to public finances, in line with the polluter pays principle.

Tomorrow, 10 September 2020, the House of Commons is debating the aviation industry.

Some MPs are expected to call for tax holidays and additional taxpayer support to help the industry address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GACC urges the government to reject these inappropriate, sticking plaster policies and instead embark on much needed and far-reaching reform of the industry.

Peter Barclay, chair of GACC, said

“We understand that many MPs are concerned about the impact of the COVID pandemic on employment in the aviation industry and will want the government

to protect jobs. However, the pandemic also provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build an aviation industry that reduces its adverse impacts on the climate, noise and local air pollution, and is better regulated”

Regulation of the aviation industry’s noise and environmental impacts is non-existent or ineffective. As a result, the industry’s environmental track record is dismal:

UK aviation’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions grew by nearly 16% between 2010 and 2018 (and by 124% since 1990) and reached a new record high in 2019.

The industry is projected by the Committee on Climate Change to be responsible for nearly 35% of the UK’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050.

Peter Barclay continued:

“Rather than bailing out the industry or artificially inflating demand for its services by reducing taxes the government should ensure that aviation emissions and aircraft noise are properly regulated and that the industry pays a fair contribution towards public finances”.

## **ENDS**

For more information contact Peter Barclay at GACC Campaign Office on 01293 868821 or email [info@gacc.org.uk](mailto:info@gacc.org.uk)

*Peter Barclay is Chairman of Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC). The aims of GACC are to protect and improve the environment both in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport and in the wider world, with particular concern about noise, local air pollution, congestion of road and rail, pressure on housing and damage to the global climate.*