



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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GACC CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON AIRPORT EXPANSION

GACC has today joined with other campaign groups nationally to call for a moratorium on airport expansion.

In a joint letter to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Housing, Communities and Local Government
, GACC says:

- ! The government announced on 20 April 2021 that international aviation emissions will be included within the UK's carbon budgets and net zero legislation for the first time.
- ! Government's Climate Change Committee has advised that adequate airport capacity already exists and that there should be no net increase in capacity unless the industry over-delivers against emissions reduction targets.
- ! There is currently no coherent policy or regulatory framework against which expansion proposals can be judged.
- ! Despite this, numerous airports, including Gatwick, are pursuing aggressive expansion plans. Cumulatively these would increase aviation's CO₂ emissions by almost 9 million tonnes annually. Gatwick's plans alone would increase emissions by nearly 1 million tonnes annually.

Peter Barclay, Chairman of GACC, said:

"Airport expansion is completely inconsistent with the government's new approach to aviation emissions and the formal advice from the Committee on Climate Change. It would be wholly wrong to allow any airport to expand until there is a clear policy framework and the industry has shown it can genuinely reduce its emissions and its other adverse impacts, such as noise and congestion. Airport expansion at Gatwick or elsewhere should be off the agenda for the foreseeable future".

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

1). The joint letter is available on GACC's website here

<http://www.gacc.org.uk/resources/Corresponence/Airport%20expansion%20moratorium%20letter%20May%202021.pdf>.

2). The Climate Change Committee's advice on aviation is at:

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Sector-summary-Aviation.pdf>

Contact Peter Barclay at GACC Campaign Office on 01293 868821 or email info@gacc.org.uk.

GACC's aims are to protect and improve the environment in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport and to diminish any wider environmental impact of its operations, with particular regard to noise, congestion, air quality, light pollution and climate change.