



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE 30th JUNE 2026

Appeal filed!

GACC Chairman, Peter Barclay, has today filed his application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Mr Barclay, mounted a High Court challenge against the lawfulness of Secretary of State's decision in September 2025 to permit massive further expansion of Gatwick Airport via development of the emergency runway despite the recommendation of National Planning Inspectors.

The Judicial Review was heard in late January 2026. Last week, on 23rd June,ⁱ the judgment was handed down, dismissing the claim. We feel the judgment did not engage with many of the legal issues the claim raised.

The appeal focuses on two grounds of challenge:

1. the failure of the Secretary of State to grapple with the misinterpretation of government policy; and
2. the fundamental flaws in Gatwick Airport's economic case, specifically bogus business passengers which underpin GAL's need case and economic benefits.

The proposal put forward by Gatwick expands capacity to nigh on 80mill passengers a year (74% increase) with 385,000 aircraft movements (35% increase) per year with disastrous impacts on the local community in terms of noise, pollution and traffic congestion and on the wider world in terms of significant contributions to carbon emissions.

Peter Barclay, GACC Chairman said *'at a time when we can all see the impact of climate change and against the advice of the government's own advisors (CCC & Environmental Audit Committee) to approve this expansion is foolhardy and must continue to be challenged.'*

'This challenge is particularly important because the primary benefit claimed by the Airport and government - the economic case – simply doesn't stack up and questions about bogus business passengers went unanswered by Gatwick Airport and untested by the Secretary of State', Mr Barclay added.

Alice Goodenough of Goodenough Ring Solicitors, Mr Barclay's legal representatives, said *'This case has far-reaching implications for government policy and the recently announced consultation on revisions to the Airports National Policy Statement. It is imperative that*

policy is properly understood and applied when reaching decisions on airport expansion, particularly given the impacts of large-scale expansion decisions, such as at Gatwick.'

i <https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ewhc/admin/2026/1556#start-of-document>

