



The Rt Hon Theresa May, PM
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Aircraft Noise 3 Villages

Lightwater
Surrey GU18 5QW

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Dear Prime Minister

In your 2009 speech in the House of Commons in which you so passionately spoke out against expansion, you accurately summarised the devastation to the quality of life of your own constituents as a result of an expanded Heathrow. Since that time, many more thousands of people are now subjected to unacceptable and increasing levels of noise over an ever wider geographic area. Your statement that we need a better Heathrow, not a bigger Heathrow is as true today as it was in 2009.

Over the last two years, tens of thousands of people across a wide range of communities have been forced to take action regarding the significant increase in aircraft noise which now routinely blights everyday life.

The Heathrow Community Noise Forum is not working, despite Heathrow's assertions to the contrary. In two years, not a single action has been proposed which would result in a reduction in noise but instead, communities are expected to accept the noise consequences of industry efficiencies and airspace modernisation.

With a decision on a third runway imminent, it is vital that this Government fully comprehends and addresses current issues before contemplating further expansion at Heathrow. Setting aside the questions of highly dubious economic arguments and the complete lack of environmental consideration, it is abundantly clear to affected communities that Heathrow and the aviation industry are unable or unwilling to address and manage the noise impact of existing operations. What possible basis is that for approving further expansion?

There must surely be less contentious investments to approve other than a project which is environmentally and economically unsound and will undoubtedly be dogged by years of opposition by those communities expected to shoulder the burden of noise and pollution.

With bold post Brexit decisions required, how refreshing it would be to have a Government with the courage to put the health and wellbeing of communities and the environment ahead of the profits of the aviation industry or one that at least, stood by publically stated positions.

We know that the promises made by Heathrow not to pursue a third runway in return for T5 approval, was not worth the paper it was written on. It was the then Government's responsibility to ensure that commitment was legally binding which it spectacularly failed to do.



To approve an increase in the number of permitted aircraft without first resolving current noise issues or fully understanding the implication of future increases on noise or environmental impacts is tantamount to social vandalism for which this Government will be responsible.

At your recent Conference key note speech you stated *'Our democracy should work for everyone, but if you've been trying to say things need to change for years and your complaints fall on deaf ears, it doesn't feel like it's working for you'*.

I can assure you that for the tens of thousands of people represented across the South East who have spent more than 2 years complaining to the Aviation industry as well as to those in Government elected to represent as well as protect our interests, it most definitely does not feel like democracy is working for us!

I wait with interest to see 'the good that government can do' in action. Prioritising the health and well-being of citizens and that of the planet rather than once again capitulating to Heathrow's economic ambitions, as well as a root and branch review of Aviation industry governance (now woefully unfit for purpose) might be good starting points.

Finally, I trust the Cabinet committee that will decide on airport expansion will include a democratic representation of those on both sides of the argument, and not be determined or influenced by politics with the Conservative ranks. I am certain that one of the many Community Representatives speaking for thousands of disaffected residents would be more than happy to attend to provide a lay point of view.

Yours sincerely

Rosalie James
Chair - Aircraft Noise 3 Villages
(Lightwater, Windlesham & Bagshot, Surrey)