

SAY NO to Heathrow Expansion (3) - Write to Ministers and MPs

The Government is consulting on the biggest-ever programme of expansion at Heathrow Airport. Very few Chiswick residents have been asked their views. The consultation offers limited ways to request information or register opposition.

So how can you make your voice heard? Local residents have identified four priorities:

- 1) Respond to the formal consultation – before Wednesday 27 February;*
- 2) Attend the consultation rally – at Westminster on Monday 25 February;*
- 3) Write to other Ministers and MPs;*
- 4) Follow up other sources of information and action.*

This sheet covers the third of these. Other sheets are available through the website, www.crashW4.com

Expand the Debate

The Department for Transport is running the consultation and questions for the formal consultation are covered in sheet 1. However many other departments are affected: environmental issues, the impact of noise on schools, the effect on health: are all legitimate areas of concern. The debate must be expanded beyond Transport. You can do this by writing to the relevant Ministers and their Opposition Shadows asking their strategy for dealing with these concerns. This will also give supportive MPs the evidence to speak up.

The address for correspondence is [Person's Name] MP
House of Commons
London SW1 0AA

<u>Party Leaders:</u>	Gordon Brown	David Cameron	Nick Clegg
	<u>Minister (Labour)</u>	<u>Shadow (Conservative)</u>	<u>Shadow (LibDem)</u>
Treasury:	Alistair Darling	George Osborne	Vince Cable
Transport:	Ruth Kelly	Theresa Villiers	Norman Baker
Health:	Alan Johnson	Andrew Lansley	Norman Lamb
Environment:	Hilary Benn	Peter Ainsworth	Steve Webb
Business & Enterprise:	John Hutton	Alan Duncan	Sarah Teather
Local Government:	Hazel Blears	Eric Pickles	Julia Goldsworthy
London:	Tessa Jowell	Jacqui Lait	Tom Brake
Children:	Ed Balls	Michael Gove	David Laws
Culture, Media&Sport:	Andy Burnham	Jeremy Hunt	Don Foster

You can ask Government Ministers any question of a factual nature in writing under the Freedom of Information Act and should receive an answer within 20 working days. Some suggestions are overleaf. Further ideas, such as writing to the relevant Parliamentary Select Committees, are included in sheet 4.

Copy your letters or emails to your local MP and ask them to obtain a specific reply from the Ministers for discussion with their constituents.

Local MPs: Andrew Slaughter (W4 – Ealing borough)
Anne Keen (W4 – Hounslow borough)

The consultation process closes on 27th February 2008. Once you have sent your consultation response, follow it up with other Ministries affected - and check out the Opposition stance too!

Some Suggested Questions for Government Ministers

Health and the Environment:

- ➔ What does the latest research show the impact on health will be from extra plane emissions, additional road traffic and stress from day-long noise?
- ➔ Who will be most affected by each health risk; children, the elderly or working adults?
- ➔ How do the extra emissions measure up against other policies to cut pollution and energy use?

Local Government and Business in London:

- ➔ Where will the planned 10,000 new workers, and residents from the 700 demolished homes (and any others that become uninhabitable), be housed?
- ➔ What is the expected impact on housing prices and local wages?
- ➔ What plans are in place to ensure that local services and businesses do not suffer?
- ➔ What steps have Ministers and their shadows responsible for London and its Councils taken to represent local interests?

Other Forms of Transport:

- ➔ What extra volumes of traffic are anticipated on the roads between Heathrow and central London (M4, A4, A316), and what impact will this have on rush hour congestion?
- ➔ What extra volumes of traffic are anticipated on the Piccadilly Line, and what impact will this have on travellers from Acton Town and Hammersmith?
- ➔ What assumptions have been made about the changing use of cars (including taxis), train/tube and buses/coaches for travel to Heathrow, and on what are these based?

Education, Culture & Sport:

- ➔ Will schools receive extra funding for sound insulation to counteract the ending of runway alternation and the additional flight paths?
- ➔ What measures are being taken to counteract noise and pollution effects on sports grounds and open spaces such as Kew Gardens?

Overall Costs to the Taxpayer:

- ➔ What account has been taken of the full costs of expansion, the adverse impact on housing, schools, health, transport and the environment, and the cost of providing new homes, schools, doctors and dentists for the influx of new workers and their families?
- ➔ What financial analysis has been undertaken to ensure that the developers could complete the project on budget?
- ➔ Will the Treasury step in with taxpayers' money if the developers or operators face financial difficulties?

The Consultation Process:

- ➔ What advice was taken on presenting the information in an accurate and accessible form?
- ➔ How were the decisions made about where consultation documents should be distributed and exhibitions held?
- ➔ The Plain English Campaign describes the consultation document as "atrocious" and calls for its withdrawal. How will concerns over the effectiveness of the consultation be addressed?
- ➔ In mid-consultation, the Government distributed consultation documents to Hammersmith and Fulham, but not to parts of Ealing and Hounslow, nearer the airport and under the third runway approach. What was the rationale?