

Dear Ms Hoskin

Thank you for your email about the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport and the comments of the PCAA on the Bristol Airport Roadmap. I will discuss this with them at my next meeting with the Chief Executive.

The government is keen to see regional airport expansion, not least easing the airport congestion in and around the London airports where regular stacking of aircraft has unavoidable environmental impact.

However, I believe that the expansion of Bristol airport could not go ahead to the extent planned without substantial investment and improvements to our local infrastructure. There are clearly continuing issues relating to aircraft noise, the potential increase in night flights and the possible future alteration in flight paths. On top of this, there are the general issues of environmental pollution and the acute local problem of insufficient parking and the consequent widespread abuse of the Green Belt and the disruption to local villages, in particular, Felton, Winford and Dundry.

The lack of local transport infrastructure means that there will continue to be real difficulties in accessing the airport by road without passing through numerous small villages, adding to the congestion already felt by local residents. Much of this is due nature of our road network, where our main roads, including the M5, A370 and the A38 all run from North to South with poor East-West communications between them.

Without long term comprehensive investment, it is difficult to see how the volume of passengers suggested might be able to access the airport, irrespective of the impact that the increased air service would have.

While North Somerset Council is yet to consider the planning application, if the above issues are not properly addressed, then I have already indicated to the Secretary of State that I will want to see the application called in.

Yours sincerely

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