



Mark Harper MP,
Secretary of State for Transport

By email.

27th July 2023

Dear Mark,

Opposition to Expansion of London Luton Airport

I trust this letter is well received.

As you will be aware, my constituency of Hitchin & Harpenden borders the site of London Luton Airport. This means that the day-to-day operations of the Airport have a direct and significant impact on communities in my constituency.

The current proposals to expand the Airport to 32 million passengers per annum – nearly double its current passenger numbers – will have a significant negative impact on local people. With more people on trains, more cars on roads and more planes in the sky this expansion will worsen unwanted noise and air pollution in the areas surrounding the Airport.

This expansion will also have a negative impact on local transport networks. An increase in demand for the Airport will be followed by a significant rise in the amount of people using our local transport networks – including the M1, our rural roads and already over-stretched train services in Hitchin & Harpenden. Demand for train services Northbound from St. Pancras in evening times will be 119% of standard seating capacity according to Luton Rising's own numbers – even after mitigations have been factored in. We do not have the capacity within our local roads and railways for this increase in numbers.

This planned expansion is unnecessary and would have a significant detrimental impact on the local environment and local communities. Aviation is a major emitter and causes air and noise pollution which has a significant impact on local people and our local chalk streams. More night flights and early morning take-offs will have a real impact on the ability of local residents to peacefully enjoy their homes; while increased air pollution will worsen air quality – which is already bad in Hitchin and will get much worse with expansion.

3,554 people have now signed my petition against the Expansion. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly about some of the reasons why and I urge the Department to reject this bid for expansion when they come to make the final decision on it.

Kind regards,