We are consulting on the draft Airports National Policy Statement, which sets out the Government’s policy on the need for additional airport capacity in the South East of England.

It also sets out why the Government believes that the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme is the most effective and appropriate scheme to deliver additional airport capacity, and the requirements that Heathrow Airport must meet in order to secure development consent for its scheme.

The Government is seeking comments and responses on the draft Airports National Policy Statement and supporting documents, including:

- How best to address the issue of airport capacity in the South East of England – for example via a northwest runway at Heathrow Airport; and

- The proposed package of supporting measures that would be required to address effects upon the environment and communities impacted by expansion.

The consultation is not seeking views on the detailed design of the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme. Consultations on the detailed scheme design will be held by Heathrow Airport at a later date as part of their application for a development consent order.

Given the level of interest in this consultation and its importance to the communities impacted by expansion, it is imperative for communities to have confidence in the consultation process. To support a fair and transparent consultation, the Secretary of State has appointed Sir Jeremy Sullivan, former Lord Justice of Appeal, as an independent consultation adviser.

Sir Jeremy has already provided independent challenge to the Department for Transport during the development of the draft Airports National Policy Statement, the consultation document and the programme of consultation events.

If you would like to raise any comments or concerns about the consultation directly with Sir Jeremy, he can be reached by email at:

independentadviser@runwayconsultation.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to him c/o the Department for Transport. Please be aware that Sir Jeremy will not be able to comment on the policies within the draft Airports National Policy Statement, only on the consultation process.

For more information on the Government’s consultation principles, please visit

www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance
Alongside the consultation on the draft Airports National Policy Statement, the Government has published its consultation on UK airspace policy, which will consider a number of important changes – some of which are linked to, but not dependent on, the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme.

The proposed changes to the way the UK’s airspace is managed will support the continued growth of the aviation sector while balancing the needs of communities affected by aircraft noise. The UK airspace consultation will also consider proposals on functions of a new Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise which the Government will establish. On the blue information boards you can find details on the airspace consultation.

To respond to this consultation please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-airspace-policy

The documents used in this consultation are:

- The draft Airports National Policy Statement and its consultation document;
- The Appraisal of Sustainability (including a number of supporting appendices);
- A non-technical summary of the Appraisal of Sustainability;
- The Appraisal of Sustainability Scoping Report;
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- The Health Impact Analysis; and
- The Interim Equalities Impact Assessment.

These documents are available online and can be downloaded from:

www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion

The response form for the consultation can also be accessed via the link above.

You can either respond online or:

By email: runwayconsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

By post: FREEPOST RUNWAY CONSULTATION

A copy of the draft Airports National Policy Statement is also available by calling 0800 689 4968.

The consultation will last for 16 weeks and will close on 25 May 2017.
What Happens Next?

Alongside this public consultation, a Parliamentary Select Committee will be scrutinising the draft Airports National Policy Statement.

When the consultation closes and Parliamentary scrutiny is complete, the Government will consider all the responses.

Once this has been done, the Government will publish a report on the consultation and its response to the Select Committee.

When the final Airports National Policy Statement is published, it will be subject to a vote in the House of Commons. If it passes this vote, it can then be designated by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Heathrow Airport will also need to begin consultation with local communities, airlines and passengers on the design aspects of the project. Responses to Heathrow Airport’s consultation may very well affect the detailed design of the Heathrow Northwest Runway scheme.

### Indicative Planning Timeline

**Early 2017**
- **Draft Airports National Policy Statement published**
  - The National Policy Statement will set out the Government’s position for developing a new runway by 2030.

**Spring–Summer 2017**
- **Select committee scrutiny of draft National Policy Statement**
  - The opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny of the draft National Policy Statement by the appointed Select Committee.

**Late 2017/Early 2018**
- **Publication of final Airports National Policy Statement**
  - Government publishes the final National Policy Statement in Parliament, with a subsequent debate followed by a vote.

**2018–2021/22**
- **Promoter takes scheme forward**
  - Once the National Policy Statement has been designated, Heathrow Airport is able to begin the formal process of seeking planning permission, which includes further consultation with local communities.

**Early 2017**
- **Start of national and local consultation on contents of draft National Policy Statement**
  - This will include a series of regional and local events around the country and in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport. It will last for 16 weeks until 25 May 2017.

**Summer–Autumn 2017**
- **Analysis and review of responses and revision of National Policy Statement**
  - Full analysis of all responses received during the public consultation. Government reviews responses to the consultation and final report from the select committee and considers whether the National Policy Statement should be revised.

**Late 2017/Early 2018**
- **Designation of National Policy Statement**
  - Assuming the final NPS passes the House of Commons vote, it can then be designated by the Secretary of State for Transport.

**Late 2020s**
- **New runway operational**
  - Assuming the planning and construction process runs in line with the timetable set out by Heathrow Airport, the new runway is expected to be operational in the mid to late 2020s.