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Airports Commission  
6th Floor  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

Sent via email: [airport.utilisation@airports.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:airport.utilisation@airports.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Commissioners

**Submission to the Airports Commission consultation on “Use of the UK’s existing airport capacity: call for evidence”**

Over the past six months the Smith Institute has been working with Transport for London listening to the views of people across the country on the future of airport capacity in London and what it means for their local and regional economies. As part of this work the Smith Institute has published a collection of essays on the need for additional connectivity to the regions. We also held a series of high-level discussions around the country gaining the views from senior business leaders, local government and other stakeholders on regional airports and regional connectivity.

I have attached with this letter both a copy of the publication and a brief summary, with quotes, of what was discussed at the meetings in Inverness, Glasgow, Liverpool, Darlington and Newquay. The meetings covered a lot of common issues, not least PSO regulation of regional slots, HS2 and rail links and Air Passenger Duty. I think that if one thing came out of the discussions (and the report) it is that if decisions about extra capacity in London do not provide a high level of certainty of improved links between London and the regions and between the regions and the wider world, then the process will be seen to have failed many parts of the UK.

If you have any queries about the submissions, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hackett  
Director

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The Smith Institute is an independent think tank which provides a high-level forum for thought leadership and debate on public policy and politics. It seeks to engage politicians, senior decision makers, practitioners, academia, opinion formers and commentators on promoting policies for a fairer society.

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