

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

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

Dear Sirs

**Davies Commission:        A call for evidence**  
**London Heathrow Airport is the reason we are here**

As the national debate about the future of air capacity in the South East of England continues – a critically important national and international issue – so does the debate about the economic future of the Thames Valley.

This response leads on from the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce response to Aviation, Connectivity & the Economy Consultation in April 2013.

In response to the latest call for evidence from the Airports Commission, which aims to inform feasibility work on an inner Thames Estuary airport proposal, I want to re-enforce the message of how vital air links are from the Thames Valley to UK businesses operating in a global economy. Losing Heathrow Airport as the single hub airport would lead to these businesses reassessing their presence in Thames Valley and thus the UK.

The views expressed in this letter represent those of the members of Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Heathrow has been constrained for too long; extra capacity needs to become a reality.

However, I must stress that any proposals for expansion will need to be accompanied by a full range of mitigation measures that acknowledge and respond to the impact Heathrow causes in respect of noise, pollution and local congestion. I am optimistic that advances in technology will bring the capability for quieter flying and lower pollution, but there is a continuing need to control and enforce against the inappropriate use of older, noisier planes.

While it will be up to the government of the day to strike the right balance between the economic, environmental and social impacts of additional capacity, it is important that the government takes into account the critical role aviation has to play in supporting economic growth. The Commission must keep this in mind when making their recommendations.

Please register my support – on behalf of Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce – for the future of London Heathrow Airport as the UK's hub airport.

The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest Chambers accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce and is recognised as the leading voice of business, representing micro to major multinational organisations; a 'centre for excellence' providing international trade services and global representation; committed to long-term relationships with members, and providing them with relevant, value added services that assist, support and protect regional, national and international business.

Thames Valley Group Chamber of Commerce represents members along the M4 corridor, from West London to Swindon. Indeed, the Thames Valley Group represents some 10,000 customers as part of its wider membership, and works with many economic organisations across the region.

Yours faithfully

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