

Tracey Crouch MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Howard Davies  
Chair  
Airports Commission  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

21 May 2014

Dear Sir Howard

I am writing to you in response to the Airports Commission's further study into the feasibility of an airport in the Thames Estuary.

As you may recall from my previous submission to the Commission, which I have enclosed for ease of reference, I am firmly opposed to any proposal for an airport in the Thames Estuary on the grounds of economic and environmental cost and impracticality, which would stand to have a very significant impact on my constituents. I am obviously disappointed that the Commission decided that such damaging and unworkable proposals for an airport in the Thames Estuary merited further study given the weight of opinion and fact lodged against them, which I believe to be a distraction from more achievable solutions to the UK's aviation capacity issue, and I would be grateful if my views and that of my constituents were given careful consideration and that the proposals for an airport in the area are discounted as soon as possible.

I trust the Commission will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Crouch".

TRACEY CROUCH MP

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12 July 2013

Dear Sir Howard

As the Member of Parliament for Chatham & Aylesford, I am writing to you in response to the Airports Commission's task in identifying how to maintain our international hub status and increase aviation capacity.

I would like to state in the clearest possible terms my objection to any proposals for an airport located in the Thames Estuary area. In my view they are economically and environmentally costly as well as completely impractical. As the Transport Select Committee found in their recent Inquiry, there are significant challenges associated with these proposals which would require significant public investment and result in the closure of Heathrow. Furthermore, these proposals would decimate environmentally sensitive areas close to my constituency and threaten existing wildlife while undoubtedly reducing the quality of life of those living in nearby local communities. These are concerns that have consistently been raised by my constituents, which you will already be aware of following your visit to Medway.

I welcome the Government's decision to establish a Commission to look in depth at the options for increasing our aviation capacity and to arrive at recommendations based on robust evidence. I do accept the need to maintain our international hub status however it must be achieved through sustainable and sensible expansion of our existing infrastructure. This to my mind rules out the damaging proposals for a hub airport anywhere in the Thames Estuary area and as such, I believe that they should be discounted as a possible option for maintaining our international hub status at the earliest opportunity.

I trust the Commission will find this helpful and I would be grateful if this could be taken into account when making your recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Crouch".

TRACEY CROUCH MP