



Publishing the inner Thames Estuary feasibility studies -

1. The Airports Commission set out in its 'Introductory Note' on the inner Thames Estuary feasibility studies that it would publish the study outputs in early July 2014.
2. Following consultation on the draft terms of reference, the final terms of reference for each of the studies were published in March 2014.
3. Consultees were also invited to submit comments and evidence against the terms of reference by 23rd May 2014. A total of just over 170 responses were received, of which around 44 were 'technical'¹ and 127 'non-technical.' All of the technical responses are available on the Commission's website.
4. Both the Commission and its consultants have reviewed comments and evidence submitted as part of the consultation on the draft terms of reference and the call for evidence, and either incorporated or referenced such evidence in the studies where relevant and appropriate.
5. Today the Commission publishes one of its studies in line with its transparency agenda and to enable interested parties to submit views on the outcomes of the studies before a decision is made on whether to short-list the inner Thames Estuary for phase 2. The remaining three studies are expected to be published next Thursday 10th July.
6. While general comments on the studies are welcome, the Commission is particularly inviting views in relation to two specific questions:
 - a. Is there information in the studies which is *factually inaccurate*? If so, please let us know.
 - b. Is there any *new* information or evidence that you wish the Commission to consider before it makes its decision?
7. Please send comments and evidence responding to the specific questions set out above to Estuary.Studies@airports.gsi.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday 8th August 2014.**

¹ Technical responses are those responses which are considered to include substantive policy content rather than solely setting out an opinion towards the proposal.

