

ARUP

Airports Commission Consultation
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Dear Sirs

Arup is a world-leading, global consultancy headquartered in central London with over 12,000 professional staff based in 39 countries worldwide. In the past 10 years, we have opened 29 new overseas offices and doubled our overseas staff. In addition, we work on over 12,000 global projects at any one time in 75 different countries. With our market expanding in key territories including South America, India, Africa, Turkey and the Far East, global direct transport links are essential to the continued success of our business. In the past 12 months, we have booked over 10,000 flights, the majority of which have involved staff travelling in or out of London. Our need is to be able to directly connect to all areas of the world where consulting, construction and planning development is taking place.

The lack of capacity in South East airports to provide direct and regular international connections to our current and future areas of interest is of great concern to us.

As a world leading consultant in aviation, Arup, as you would expect, are providing services to many airports in the UK, including both Heathrow and Gatwick in the development of their options for runway expansion. In these circumstances, it is inappropriate for Arup to corporately support one option over the other. However, as a major international consultant, Arup have a keen interest in supporting proposals for the development of efficient international transport links in and out of the UK. We would, however, state that the UK needs to make a positive decision as soon as is practical, as it is clear that additional capacity is required in the South East area, and a delay to this decision will result in Europe accelerating ahead of us in providing direct access to our current and future clients.

In your consideration of the three airport development options, we trust the Commission will include these business needs as an important part of your assessment and recommendations and that our concerns of short-term party political manoeuvring will not derail your recommendations from being speedily implemented.

Yours sincerely



Alan Belfield
UKMEA Region Chair