**Press Release**

28 November 2024

*For immediate use*

**HEATHROW SEEK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR 3RD RUNWAY (AGAIN).**

Heathrow’s CEO has finally confirmed that, alongside 10 years of disruptive construction over the M25’s busiest junction, government support would be required for its expansion.

Speaking at the Airports UK conference earlier this week, Heathrow’s CEO, Thomas Woldbye, said that Government support would be required for the Airport to press ahead with the project once again and that he hoped to obtain that support by the end of next year (1). It is not clear by what means ‘support’ is meant and if that support would be given in advance of the lengthy planning process that a third runway would entail.

Woldbye also acknowledged that the third runway would make achieving the UK’s climate targets harder, a view that contrasts with campaigners against the project that believe it would make it impossible to meet them, based on evidence from the UK’s Climate Change Committee which stated there is no room for any net expansion of aviation capacity in the UK in the carbon budget (2).

The third runway has officially been paused since the pandemic.

**Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:**

“The concept of a “Third Runway” has always been a misnomer. The plans entail increasing Heathrow’s estate by a size that is larger than Birmingham Airport, with more terminals, hangars, shopping malls and the world’s two largest car parks, in order to increase flight numbers by more than Gatwick currently flies.

“Would Prime Minister Starmer, who opposed the plan in principle during the 2018 parliamentary vote, really change his mind when all analysis indicates that expansion at Heathrow will suck aviation activity away from other UK airports, undermining regional economic opportunity to the “benefit” of the already over heated south east?"

*ENDS.*

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Notes:

1. Woldbye’s remarks at Airports UK Conference <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/11/27/back-third-runway-now-or-well-give-up-heathrow/>
2. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2023-progress-report-to-parliament/>