



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

29 January 2016

The Rt Hon Andrew Tyrie MP
Chairman
Treasury Committee
7 Millbank
House of Commons
London
SW1P 3JA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jen Anderson,'.

Thank you for your letter on the Airport Commission's analysis.

The Commission – led by Sir Howard Davies – carried-out ground-breaking work on the question of airport capacity in the South East. Sir Howard's work and report undoubtedly constitutes the most detailed and in-depth consideration of this issue for generations, and I once again thank him for his work and dedication.

You tabled a set of detailed Parliamentary Questions on this analysis, and received answers from the Department for Transport. I understand that these answers were necessarily at a high level as the Government was at this time in the process of comprehensively reviewing and assuring the Airports Commission's work. I'm sure you will recognise that it is essential that we run a thorough and robust process here that ensures the final decision of the Government is safe from future judicial review. As such providing a running public commentary on these deliberations and detailed assurance procedures would clearly not be appropriate or helpful.

However, I am keen you feel you have the opportunity to discuss your questions and feel satisfied as possible with the answers you receive. As such I am asking the Secretary of State for Transport to invite you to join him at a meeting at which you can discuss your questions in person with the aviation experts in his department.

As you are now aware, as a result of this comprehensive review of the Commission's analysis, the Government felt able to accept in December 2015 the case for new runway capacity in the South East put forward by Sir Howard, and will be undertaking a package of further work ahead of any decisions on the preferred scheme for expansion. A decision of this scale cannot be taken lightly – we need to build confidence that new capacity can be delivered within air quality limits and that affected communities will receive the best deal. It is expected that this work will be completed during the summer.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important issue. I look forward to your continued support to ensure that the Government makes the right decision that is so crucial to the future of the country.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Transport.

*Best wishes,
George*

GEORGE OSBORNE