



Rosalie James <info@an3v.co.uk>

Re: Questions re MPs Vote on Heathrow Expansion

AN3V - Rosalie James <info@an3v.co.uk>
To: "GOVE, Michael" <michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk>
Cc: mayt@parliament.uk

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 1:25 PM

Dear Mr Gove

Sending me a link to read the recently published policy framework for expansion can hardly be considered an adequate response to my detailed questions, which were specifically why YOU considered Heathrow's and the Airport Commissions' arguments remain feasible despite significant challenges to the environmental and economic data - even by Government Departments.

You are extremely confident about HALs ability to fund this project as you have repeatedly stated that costs will not be met by the tax payer. Great certainty for a project with so many unknowns and flying in the face of many leading economists who consider the tax payer is highly likely to have to bail out this ill conceived project. Baffling considering HALs balance sheet and the fact it operates with almost no equity capital as recently reported in the press. HALs 2017 accounts show borrowings stand at £13.4bn. Equity stood at just £703m and investors had a dividend payout of £847m with post tax profits of only £516m, so taking out more in dividends than had been earned. It does not require a degree in accountancy to understand that it is highly likely that, in part, corporate debt is being used to fund such dividends. What does that tell you about the integrity of this company (financial or otherwise) or do you not consider that it is a question to which you should categorically know the answer before risking a penny of tax payers' money?

Thanks to a ridiculous attempt by a government in crisis to use aviation expansion as a signal that Britain is 'open for business' (at the same time Mr Hammond and Mr Carney are both hailing improvements in the economic forecast, neither of whom added the proviso of another 260,000 aircraft as far as I am aware!), those of your constituents now consistently and debilitatingly disturbed by early morning and late night aircraft noise can expect little improvement. For our community efforts over a 4 year period to hold this industry to account and effect change, have been simply ignored by you who instead chose to endorse more of the same and back commerce instead of people.

So we cannot rely on a manifesto pledge as Cameron illustrated, we cannot rely on principled argument, the ditching of which Mrs May illustrated, we cannot rely on MPs standing up to be counted, as Boris Johnson illustrated. I wonder just what MPs think the voting public can rely on these days and will they be shocked I wonder if there is a reversal of fortunes at the next election?

Instead of small minds acting for the exclusive economic benefit of a self interested company within a tiny area of a tiny country, we have a collective global responsibility to protect the entire planet and lead by example.

No doubt Britain will now desist from patronising developing countries by lecturing them on environmental responsibilities, when we have demonstrated, like Trump abandoning the Kyoto Protocol, that the UK is more interested in the dollar than protecting the environment.

An opportunity missed for your department to demonstrate global leadership but a situation which the Courts will no doubt reverse.....once again.

Regards
Rosalie James



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On Thu, Jun 28, 2018 at 2:16 PM, GOVE, Michael <michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk> wrote:

Dear Rosalie,

Thank you very much for your comprehensive letter of 15 June regarding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

I support a new runway at Heathrow. It is a central part of the Government's plan to build a global Britain, and an economy that works for everyone. A new runway will bring economic benefits to passengers and the wider economy worth up to £74 billion.

Regarding the questions you raise, you might be interested to read the recently published policy framework for expansion:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714106/airports-nps-new-runway-capacity-and-infrastructure-at-airports-in-the-south-east-of-england-web-version.pdf

You will also find further information at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>

Thank you again for keeping in touch.

With every good wish,

Michael

Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP

Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath

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<https://www.michaelgove.com/privacy-notice>