



To: Murad Qureshi AM  
Chair of the Environment Committee  
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Sir Howard Davies  
Chair Airports Commission  
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Ref:  
Date: 9 December 2013

Dear Murad

Thank you for your letter of 25 November regarding the London Assembly's support for an independent aviation noise regulator and improved surface transport access at airports. I noted your comments with interest.

The Airports Commission is preparing to publish an interim report, which will set out, among other things, recommendations for making the best use of existing airport capacity. As part of our work this year, my fellow Commissioners and I have discussed how the levels and impacts of aviation noise might best be monitored and controlled. Our conclusions on this issue will form part of the interim report.

We have also given consideration to the issue of surface transport links to the UK's existing airports. We agree that improved surface transport offers an incentive to airlines to make better use of currently under-utilised capacity, which, while not presenting a solution in itself to the UK's longer term capacity needs, should enable the UK to preserve and even enhance its international connectivity in the short term. We wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with our recommendations on surface access improvements on 26 November and I was pleased to note that the Government's National Infrastructure Plan, published last week, signalled the Government's intention to act on our recommendations.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Davies', written in a cursive style.

Sir Howard Davies, Chair