



Department  
for Transport

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM  
Chair of the Transport Committee  
London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

Appendix 2

From the Minister of State  
Robert Goodwill MP

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [robert.goodwill@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:robert.goodwill@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

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Dear Valerie,

Thank you for your letter of 19 November to Patrick McLoughlin, about surface transport access to Heathrow Airport. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

In its interim report, the Commission concluded that the UK needs one additional runway in the South East and short listed three options; additional runways at Gatwick or Heathrow or an extension to the existing northern runway at Heathrow. On 1 July 2015 the Commission published its final report, recommending an additional runway at Heathrow. However, all three short listed schemes were deemed viable.

On 10 December 2015, the Government confirmed that it accepted the case for additional runway capacity in the South-East and agreed with the Airports Commission's shortlist of options.

The Government recognises the importance of the decision and with this in mind it has decided to undertake a package of further work which it anticipates will conclude over the summer.

The next step is to develop the best possible package of measures for all the shortlisted schemes to mitigate the impacts on local people and the environment. We want to build confidence that expansion can take place within air quality legal limits. And we will develop a package for local communities which includes compensation, maximising local economic opportunities through new jobs and apprenticeships, and measures to tackle noise.

I am grateful to you for providing your views on a number of issues in relation to the potential location for additional runway capacity, and while we are not seeking further views or evidence, we will consider all relevant new information, as appropriate. However, I am sure you will understand that I am not able to comment substantively at this stage on the points you raise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by several overlapping loops and a final vertical stroke.

**ROBERT GOODWILL**