

Back Heathrow call on 'Captain Cameron' to land Heathrow expansion as soon as possible

Campaign director Rob Gray asked for "no more delays" to the decision, as a crowd of pro-third runway supporters took to Westminster

Katherine Clementine, getwestlondon.co.uk | 13 Apr 2016



Back Heathrow members asked for 'Captain Cameron' to hurry up with his third runway decision

[Heathrow Airport](#) expansion supporters took to Downing Street to deliver a message to 'Captain Cameron', urging the Prime Minister to approve a third runway soon.

A crowd from pro-expansion group, Back Heathrow, launched their new Captain Cameron campaign in [Westminster](#), on Wednesday (April 13) delivering a letter to [David Cameron](#) on behalf of 100,000 local residents, they say support expansion.

Special guest 'Captain Cameron', in full pilot uniform, and residents living near the airport gathered outside the Houses of Parliament to call on 'Captain' David Cameron and 'First Officer' [George Osborne](#) to "land Heathrow expansion and watch the UK take off".

The campaigners then walked up to Downing Street to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister written on behalf of the 100,000 local residents Back Heathrow say want to see a bigger and better Heathrow.

Rob Gray, Back Heathrow campaign director, said: “This is a final call for Captain Cameron.

“The Prime Minister now needs to show real leadership to land Heathrow expansion.

“A new runway at the UK’s only hub airport¹ can be approved with confidence because it is backed by most local residents living near the airport, businesses, exporters, airlines, trade unions, regional airports and a majority of MPs.



‘Captain’ David Cameron and ‘First Officer’ George Osborne need to “land Heathrow expansion and watch the UK take off”, say Back Heathrow

“It’s been a long-haul but there must be no more delays.”

Traffic figures recently published by Airports Council International (ACI) showed that [Heathrow Airport dropped three places to sixth position](#) in the list of the world’s busiest airports.

‘Vitaly important to residents who want certainty’

The letter, signed by Back Heathrow campaign director Rob Gray, urges the Prime Minister to end the uncertainty surrounding airport expansion and give the green light to a new runway at Heathrow.

¹ **aiR NOTE:** This may be stating a far more significant issue: if Hub airports are necessary in 2016 (and that point is becoming increasingly arguable), how is it that UK has just one Hub airport, given its strategic location for travel between North America and Europe?

It reads: “Whilst we understand that you will be preoccupied with the [EU referendum](#) over the next few weeks, it is vitally important to residents in west London who want certainty over Heathrow expansion, that you make a decision as soon as possible.”

It refers to the **£211bn economic benefits and 180,000 jobs up and down the country which would come with Heathrow expansion.**²

The letter also asks why the Prime Minister would risk huge protests in an unspoilt area of rural England by backing expansion at Gatwick, an option for which there is little support.³

The letter continues: “All of this shows that when it comes to airport expansion in the south-east, there is only one possible location for a new runway.

“As the chair of your National Infrastructure Commission put it: Heathrow expansion is “the only show in town”.

“The public are also strongly supportive as demonstrated by more than 82% of the 70,591 responses to the Airports Commission’s public consultation saying ‘yes’ to Heathrow expansion.”⁴

[John McDonnell](#) is inviting residents to upcoming meetings, to [hear about the 'disastrous' effects a third runway could have](#) on those living in his constituency.

**Copied 4/17/2016 from: <http://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/west-london-news/back-heathrow-call-captain-cameron-11181830>
(Highlights, footnotes and minor edits may have been added by aiREFORM)**

² **aiR NOTE:** A very common strategy for selling public acceptance of massive airport projects is to allege huge economic benefits. However, this commonly ignores a simple reality: the benefits of any massive project will accrue regardless of where the massive project happens.

Commonly, at some locations, the benefits are attained at a much lower cost. That is to say, the costs of Heathrow adding a third runway are very, **VERY** high, when you factor in the existing level of noise and air pollutant impacts upon the surrounding communities. If the same benefits (in terms of numbers of jobs and estimated economic stimulus) will happen at another location, and at less cost, this becomes a no-brainer: do not expand Heathrow.

³ **aiR NOTE:** Who are the *real* beneficiaries of Heathrow adding a third runway? Industry players, such as the airlines and the contractors who serve the airlines.

⁴ **aiR NOTE:** this survey has been shown to be a joke – a biased manipulation aimed at promoting expansion. The same manipulations are common in the U.S., where FAA's rigged processes for public input on airport expansions frequently allow (and even encourage) industry players to assert needs that are clearly exaggerated.