

A plane shocking result for Queen?

AFTER smiling her way through her birthday celebrations, the Queen can be forgiven for frowning a little at Windsor Castle this weekend as she contemplates the Government's imminent announcement on whether there will be a third runway built at nearby Heathrow.

Adam Helliker, Express.co.uk | Sun, Jun 19, 2016



New Heathrow plane expansion spells bad news for The Queen and Windsor Castle (GETTY)

David Cameron is expected to give the green light to the Airports Commission's view that Heathrow's expansion would be the best way to deal with the growing demand for air travel.

But a third runway will mean an increase in noise over HM's favourite residence, which sits on the highest part of Windsor.

Aircraft flying low over what is the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world have long been an unwelcome distraction for its occupants, to such an extent that the Queen can identify the types of plane by their engine noise.

A racing friend, who lunched with her at Windsor, says: "At one point, our conversation was drowned out by a passing plane. The Queen said, 'Boeing 747'. Moments later another plane flew overhead. 'Airbus', she said. Throughout luncheon she identified every plane that flew over the castle towards Heathrow."

Local councillor George Bathurst has said he believes any expansion would "destroy" Windsor and badly affect the state functions held at the castle. A report by the Department of Transport

also showed that the castle sits in a potential “island of noise” which would only increase with more flights.

However Heathrow has begun initial preparatory work on the new runway even before Government approval. That will not amuse the Queen, who spends most of her weekends at Windsor as well as being there for a month over Easter.

At least Philip will be able to turn off his newly acquired hearing aid. He will also have another excuse for telling his favourite anecdote about an American tourist who asked: “Why did they build Windsor Castle so close to Heathrow airport?”

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