

Government News

21 May 2012 - [BAA Ltd gets green light to lobby for third runway at Heathrow](#)

BAA will be able to lobby for a third runway at Heathrow during consultation on how to preserve the UK's status as a leading aviation hub, transport minister Theresa Villiers has confirmed. She reiterated the government's opposition to expansion of Heathrow but said the airport's operator could lobby for a change of policy. Ms Villiers added, "The commercial interest of BAA is one thing – it's not necessarily the same as the economic needs of the overall economy."

21 May 2012 - [CAA Publishes Next Phase Of Price Control Process](#)

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has published a Policy Update in the process to set the economic regulation of airports after March 2014. Economic regulation of airports is only required where competition is not sufficiently strong to further the interests of passengers. Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports are currently subject to CAA economic regulation.

22 May 2012 - [Border Agency Director General tells MPs that four hour airport queues 'can't be ruled out' during the Olympics](#)

Brian Moore, director general of the Border Agency has told MPs that although he believes staffing levels will be able to deal with an anticipated surge of arrivals, he could not guarantee there would be no delays. Mr Moore repeatedly declined to tell the Commons Home Affairs Committee what he believed to be a 'reasonable' wait at immigration but claimed travellers accepted a time of around 25 minutes.

24 May 2012 - [Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports 'need extra runways'](#)

London's three main airports may all need new runways to meet demand in future decades claims a report by Spelthorne MP Kwasi Kwarteng. [The Case for Aviation](#) claims that at least one new runway is needed for three airports by 2020. Mr Kwarteng MP backs a third runway at Heathrow and is also open to the idea of a "Boris island" airport in the Thames Estuary. He also proposes that Heathrow's third runway could be the existing runway at RAF Northolt; identifying that airports such as Amsterdam's Schiphol have runways several miles from the control tower.

24 May 2012 - [Carbon cutting local transport schemes given £113 million boost](#)

30 carbon cutting projects have won funding totalling £113 million as part of the second allocation from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. They are led by 29 English local authorities with many more as partners and cover eight regions. All projects are designed to create a sustainable transport package that delivers economic growth and reduces carbon emissions.

Events and Speeches

18 May 2012 - [Department for Transport and BAA Ltd discuss need to address sustainability issues and noise mitigation in aviation policy framework Airport Operators Association \(AOA\) Environment Conference](#)

Kate Jennings, Head of Aviation Policy Implementation at the Department for Transport said the government recognised that solving the noise debate was a difficult issue but wanted to find constructive solutions. Ms Jennings added that airport noise contours – the noise footprint – were useful but didn't necessarily reflect public perception on the ground, although the level of complaints is coming down. Ms Jennings supported a framework that encouraged debate and effective engagement with local communities. She added that the government was keen to explore how compensation schemes for residents affected by noise could be better targeted and measured.

Matt Gorman, BAA Ltd Sustainability Director said BAA Ltd had a major strategic work programme underway this year to address noise issues at Heathrow including;

- a project in conjunction with NATS and environmental campaign groups Aviation Environment Federation and Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN) about the predictability of noise;
- developing a roadmap as part of the recently-launched Heathrow Sustainability Partnership, aiming to enhance the airport's economic and social benefits while reducing its environmental impacts; and
- the development of a website called Heathrow Airthought (heathrowairthought.com) to share ideas on what the airport can do to protect the environment and support local communities.

Westminster Committees

23 May 2012 - Transport Select Committee - The Government's plans for transport during the Olympics – Control of Heathrow's landing slots

The Committee heard from Hugh Sumner, Director of Transport, Olympic Delivery Authority; Richard George, Director of Transport, London Organising Committee of the Olympics Games; and Justine Greening, Transport Secretary

23 May 2012 - Transport Select Committee - The Government's plans for transport during the Olympics – Capacity at Heathrow

The Committee heard from Andy Garner, Director, London 2012, BAA Ltd; Robin Gisby, Managing Director, Network Operations, Network Rail; and Peter Hendy CBE, Commissioner of Transport, Transport for London

24 May 2012 - Northern Ireland Affairs Committee - Air Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland and acquisition of BMI by BA Ltd

The Committee heard from David McMurray, regional industrial officer for Belfast, Unite; Angela Kelly, Catherine Horgan and Paula Spiers Unite shop steward (BMI).

House of Lords Questions	House of Commons Questions
<p>Decline of flight departures from London airports over the next five years- Lord Laird - 23 May 2012</p> <p>Proposals for the implementation of new flight time limitation rules - Lord Empey- 23 May 2012</p>	<p>Time taken to enter the UK through Heathrow airport - Soames, N, 21 May 2012</p> <p>Boarder Agency cuts – Bryan, C - 21 May 2012</p> <p>Plans to respond to the recommendations on international aviation and shipping carbon emissions - Eagle, M - 21 May 2012</p>
<p>Aviation All Party Group Event</p>	
<p>16 May 2012 - Association of British Travel Agents calls for review of air passenger duty impact and extra runway capacity in South East Mark Tanzer ABTA Chief Executive, spoke today before the All Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Aviation setting out the main points in ABTA's written response to the APPG. Mr Tanzer called on the Treasury to commission an independent analysis of the impact of Air Passenger Duty (APD) on the UK economy and to reconsider its decision to rule out additional runways elsewhere in the South East after its categorical refusal to allow construction of a third runway at Heathrow.</p> <p>24 May 2012 - All Party Parliamentary Group on Aviation Chair "pleasantly surprised' by high inquiry response rate</p>	<p>Meetings on High Speed Rail link between Heathrow Airport and RAF Northolt - Thomas, G - 21 May 2012</p> <p>Steps to implement international aviation and shipping carbon emission recommendations - Eagle, M - 21 May 2012</p> <p>Number of staff in the Department for Transport working on reducing transport's contribution to UK greenhouse gas emissions - Eagle, M - 22 May 2012</p> <p>Government meetings on the Thames Estuary Airport – Thomas, G - 24 May 2012</p>
<p>Debates and legislation</p>	
<p>22 May 2012 - Commons Third Reading - Civil Aviation Bill Debate on whether the Bill is to make provisions about the regulation of operators of dominant airports, and confer functions on the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) under competition legislation in relation to services provided at airports.</p>	<p>SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates Thursday 14 June 2012 The Aviation Minister, Theresa Villiers, shall be attending. Friday 9 November 2012 and Friday 1 March 2013. Meetings are held between 11am and 1pm, at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; location map.</p>