



Department
for Transport

Heathrow Expansion NPS

Update following consultation publication

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Airspace and Noise Engagement Group - 25 June 2026

What has been published?

On 18 June, the following documents were published for consultation:

- Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement (HENPS)
- Consultation document
- Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) – including annexes with supporting noise and air quality data, and AoS scoping report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (including scoping report)
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (including scoping report)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (including scoping report)
- Surface Access Vision
- UK Aviation Forecasts
- Heathrow Expansion Appraisal Report (with associated literature review)

A further report setting out the methodology and results of computable general equilibrium modelling of the economic impact of Heathrow expansion will be published shortly.

Open consultation

Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement proposed amendments

From: [Department for Transport](#)

Published 18 June 2026

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Summary

Seeks views on the proposed amendments to the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS).

This consultation closes at
11:59pm on 1 September 2026

Draft HENPS Overview

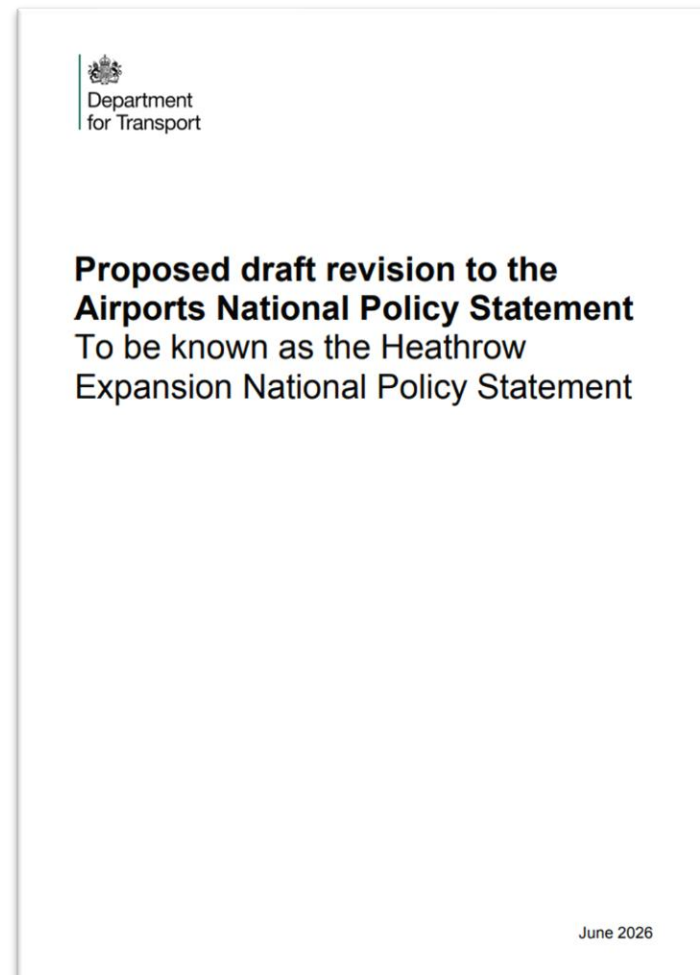
Clearer scope of the document

The ANPS has been renamed the HENPS. Updates have been made to make the purpose and scope of the draft HENPS clearer up front, setting out that the draft HENPS applies to applications for development consent that cover any of the following criteria:

- a Northwest Runway having a runway length up to 3,500m and forming part of a scheme which, on completion, is capable of enabling at least 260,000 additional air transport movements (ATMs) per annum
- any new terminal infrastructure or the reconfiguration of terminal facilities associated with the Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport
- any associated infrastructure, surface access facilities and changes to the strategic road network

Amendments have been made throughout the document to reflect:

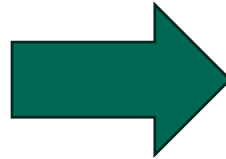
- updated analysis and data set out in the UK aviation forecast, HEAR and CGE modelling documents, that have been published alongside the draft HENPS
- changes to legislation and policy since 2018, including important changes to climate and environmental obligations
- the AoS, HRA, EqlA and HIA that have been published alongside the draft HENPS
- the government's four tests on air quality, noise, climate and economic growth



Draft HENPS Noise Policy

2018 ANPS

- Concluded that airport and airlines should be held to the highest standards of noise performance if expansion taken forward.
- Requires a noise assessment considering construction and operational noise (surface access and aircraft noise).
- Requires (with mitigation) that noise is limited and, where possible, reduced compared to a 2013 baseline.
- Requires an applicant to put forward plans for a noise envelope, runway alternation scheme, and ban on scheduled night flights for 6.5 hours.
- Decision-making guidance sets out that development consent should not be granted unless the SoS is satisfied that proposals effectively manage and control noise.



2026 Draft HENPS

- Includes updated analysis which indicates that Heathrow operating to full capacity in 2055 can do so with no greater overall noise impact compared to 2024.
- No significant changes proposed for noise assessment required or mitigations, although seeking views via the consultation on the definition of scheduled flights regarding a night flight ban.
- Decision-making guidance incorporates the Government's noise "test" that requires overall aircraft noise to be limited and, where reasonably possible, reduced compared to a 2024 baseline taking account of quieter aircraft and operating procedures.

What happens now?

Consultation

- The [consultation](#) is open until 1 September. The government will carefully consider all responses received.
- Following consideration of consultation responses, the government will decide whether to proceed. If it does so, it will publish a formal response to the consultation, update the draft HENPS as necessary, and lay a final version before Parliament.
- The final HENPS will be subject to a vote in the House of Commons, prior to having legal effect.

Parliamentary scrutiny

- The HENPS will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny alongside the consultation.
- The Liaison Committee has nominated the Transport Select Committee to undertake this scrutiny for the draft HENPS. They will gather evidence and present a report setting out their findings and recommendations.
- A Call for Evidence for evidence was launched on 24 June, closing on 23 July, and oral evidence sessions are expected to take place in September and October.
- The Parliamentary scrutiny period will end on 26 November, and the government will then respond to the Select Committee's report.

Stakeholder engagement

- Structured engagement during the consultation period is being organised.
- This will include engagement with local communities, local authorities, industry representatives, airlines, promoters, environmental organisations, regulators and other interested parties.
- Engagement will operate in line with the published Statement of Approach and not pre-judge consultation outcomes.

Initial feedback and questions