

11 JUN 2010

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Our ref: 2153/CM/TS/L

Your ref:

9th June 2010

Peter Sanders
Chairman
Stop Stansted Expansion
PO Box 311
Takeley
Bishops Stortford
Herts, CM22 6PY



Thank you for your letter of 1st June.

We believe that new runway capacity is needed in the UK to maintain and strengthen the country's important trading links. However, we also respect the importance of Government policy in relation to the delivery of new runways.

It was Government policy until recently to promote two new runways in the South East of England, with the first to be built at Stansted. In the light of that clear policy, which was restated many times between 2003 and 2010, BAA chose to invest in a planning application at Stansted, which was lodged in March 2008.

Following the recent general election, the clearly-signalled change of Government policy led us to withdraw the Stansted planning application, a decision we took and communicated as quickly as possible.

I regret the uncertainty faced by local people through this prolonged process. I believe we have acted in good faith and in a way that was consistent with the Government's national aviation policy. Accordingly, BAA does not intend to make the commitments described in your letter.

We want a good relationship with our neighbours and do not doubt the strength of feeling around our plans to build a new runway. We will work hard to keep the local community informed and to provide local people with as much knowledge of our operation and our future plans as possible. In doing so, I hope we can establish a mutually positive relationship in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely



Colin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer