



www.stopstanstedexpansion.com
info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

PO Box 311
Takeley
Bishops Stortford
Herts CM22 6PY
Tel: 01279 870558
Fax: 01279 870786

1 June 2010

Colin Matthews Esq
Chief Executive Officer
BAA Ltd
Heathrow Point West
234 Bath Road
Middlesex UB3 5AP

Dear Mr Matthews

I am both pleased and relieved that BAA has finally withdrawn its planning application for a second Stansted runway. In SSE's view this application should never have been submitted in the first place and its withdrawal should have taken place some time ago.

The task now is to try to rebuild confidence and social cohesion within those local communities in the vicinity of Stansted Airport which have been most adversely affected by eight years of uncertainty and blight as a result of the threat of a second runway and, indeed, as an essential part of that task, to do justice to those communities. We believe that there are three essential components for this rebuilding process to take place:

- (i) In order to demonstrate that the threat has been removed all of the houses and other properties acquired by BAA in connection with the second runway project should be put back on the market and the original owners should be given the first option to buy back. In the case of rented properties, the tenant should be given second option;
- (ii) An apology should be sent to all the local homeowners who have been living under the threat of compulsory purchase and, to demonstrate the sincerity of that apology, BAA should offer ex gratia payments in recognition of the uncertainty those homeowners have had to endure for almost eight years, and particularly since March 2008 when they were formally served with compulsory purchase notifications by BAA;
- (iii) To address the longer term position, BAA should provide the local planning authority with a legally binding assurance, on behalf of itself and any future owner of Stansted Airport, that it will not seek to build a second runway at Stansted for a period of at least 50 years.

Expanding on the last point, the people of this area have lived under the threat of a further runway or runways at Stansted Airport for almost half a century. On four separate occasions since the early 1960s we have had to mobilise, raise funds and expend enormous amounts of time and energy, fighting one public inquiry after another in order to defeat the threat. On each of those four occasions we have ultimately won the argument, but only to find that the same or similar plans for an additional runway or runways at Stansted are resurrected a decade or so later. We believe this is profoundly unfair and that it is time to say that 'enough is enough'.

Patron: Terry Waite CBE

Stop Stansted Expansion is a working group of the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association

In 1979 BAA provided the people living in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport with long term peace of mind by entering into a legally binding agreement with the local planning authority that it would not build a second Gatwick runway for a period of at least 40 years, i.e. before 2019.

We believe that it is now Stansted's turn to have long term peace of mind and for the reasons we have explained above we regard 50 years as the appropriate duration for a Stansted moratorium.

I very much hope you will be able to agree to the three requests set out above and look forward to receiving your early response. In the meantime we would of course be pleased to provide any clarification which you may need and to meet you if you would find this helpful.

I am copying this letter to the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Communities and Local Government, and to Sir Alan Haselhurst, for information.

Yours sincerely



Peter Sanders
Chairman

cc Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP