

# Hammersmith and Fulham Commission on Air Quality

The Prime Minister  
Rt Hon. Theresa May MP  
10 Downing St  
London SW1A 2AA

45 Bradmore Park Road  
London W6 0DT  
tel. 020 8846 9707  
rosemary@rosemarypettit.plus.com

31 August 2016

Prime Minister,

## **Expansion of Heathrow Airport**

I am writing as a resident of Hammersmith and chairman of the resident-led Hammersmith and Fulham Commission on Air Quality. The Commission is assessing evidence on air pollution in the borough and seeking recommendations to improve the quality of air.

We are therefore concerned at the effect that a third runway might have on air quality in the borough.

From evidence given by Heathrow to the H&F Commission on Airport Expansion last year it became clear that ground traffic through and from Hammersmith and Fulham (main artery the A4 and Hammersmith flyover) generates considerable pollution to and from Heathrow. Heathrow traffic includes not only passengers but flight crews, airport and retail staff, suppliers and contractors. The Heathrow-related ground traffic through the borough may be more injurious to health than air pollution caused by overflying planes.

The H&F Commission on Air Quality has not received assurance from Heathrow that it considers it has any responsibility for residents' air quality beyond fairly narrow areas proximate to the airport.

With two runways at the moment, air pollution around Heathrow already exceeds EU limits. An extra runway would add 300,000 extra flights and 25 million additional passenger journeys a year.

Heathrow has claimed that the additional numbers of people travelling to and from a Heathrow third runway would be accommodated by upgrades to the Piccadilly line, Crossrail and other train services. Heathrow has made slow progress to date in transferring passengers, staff and others from road to rail so this claim is unlikely to be achieved.

Given the above we consider that a third runway at Heathrow would be bound to increase unacceptable congestion and air pollution from ground traffic in Hammersmith and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Pettit  
Chairman: Hammersmith and Fulham Commission on Air Quality