



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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60% of public say no to airport expansion

Campaigners from the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group (SBAE) say that local decision makers must take note of figures released from an ICM poll this week showing that 60% of the public think increasing flights from UK airports is a bad idea in the light of the impact of climate change.

The figures were released alongside a series of adverts in the national press as Gordon Brown took office on Wednesday, urging new the Prime Minister to take heed and listen since the Government's policy encouraging UK airports to expand is clearly flying in the face of public opinion.

SBAE spokesperson Jeremy Birch said: "The Government has now acknowledged that aviation already accounts for 13% of the UK's climate change impact. It is very clear that the public is increasingly concerned about aviation and understands that encouraging more planes into the air is bad for the environment.

"Bristol International Airport's repeated claims that it creates only a miniscule amount of the UK's emissions is not a good reason for continuing its expansion plans. We are all asked to take climate change seriously and save energy and resources, yet it could equally be argued that North Somerset has a tiny impact as a fraction of the UK whole and so why, as a region, should we bother to cut our emissions. The individual parts of any problem can always be cut down to seem small.

"Expansion of BIA will cost us locally – in terms of increased noise misery for the surrounding communities, increasing congestion on local roads, and absorption of green belt land for development – as well as the contribution it makes to climate change.

"60% of people don't want airports to expand. We urge local decision makers to take note."

More information on the ICM poll can be found on the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion website at: www.stopbia.com

ENDS

For media enquiries and more information, contact Susan Pearson on: 07891 460942

Notes for editors

1)

CS01 (04 June 2007)

Public Attitudes to Airport Expansion TOPLINE (04/06/07)

- ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,012 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain
- Fieldwork was conducted by telephone between 1 – 3 June 2007
- Data are weighted to reflect the population profile
- All figures given are percentages and are based on the full sample unless otherwise stated

- Figures based on the full sample have a confidence interval of approximately $\pm 3\%$
- Where results do not add up to 100, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows / not stated
- An asterisk (*) represents a figure which is less than 0.5% but greater than zero
- The questions were designed and the research project managed by Woodnewton Associates

Q1. **How many times have you taken an flight in the last 12 months? Please count each journey to an end destination but not any changes of flights en route to that destination. A return flight would count as 2 flights.**

	%
	All
1-2	25
3-6	19
7+	7
None	39
Never flown	10
Don't know	-
<i>Not flown in last 12 months</i>	49
<i>Flown in last 12 months</i>	51

Q2. **The vast majority of scientists and governments across the world now believe that climate change will have a very significant impact on the world's environment and population unless action is taken now to reduce carbon emissions, and that air travel is set to become one of the main causes of climate change. In the next 12 months do you think you will take more flights, fewer flights or about the same number of flights as you did in the last 12 months?**

	%	%
	All	All who have flown in last 12 months
More often in the next 12 months	9	8
Less often in the next 12 months	17	25
About the same number of flights	70	67
Don't know	4	*

Q3. **Based on what you have seen or heard about the impact of climate change, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the Government to increase the capacity for the number of flights allowed at UK airports?**

	%	%
	All	All who have flown in last 12 months
Very good idea	10	10
Fairly good idea	25	28
Fairly bad idea	32	35
Very bad idea	28	22
Don't know	5	6
<i>Good idea</i>	35	38
<i>Bad idea</i>	60	57

2) Government figures show that in 2005 aviation accounted for 13% of total UK climate change damage. The figure for CO₂ alone is 6.3%, but this is multiplied by 2 to take radiative forcing into account. This was confirmed by Gillian Merron, Aviation Minister, in response to a Parliamentary Question by Peter Ainsworth, in the Commons on 2 May 2007.