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Heathrow decision irrelevant to Bristol airport plans

Bristol airport's development plans will not be waved through just because of the decision at Heathrow, campaigners opposing the airport's expansion said today. The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group has pointed out that the planning act that became law in November 2008 allows for larger projects such as Heathrow to go through a fast track planning process, but this does not apply to Bristol airport.

"The case at Bristol is entirely different from Heathrow," said SBAE spokeswoman Hilary Burn. "The economic arguments for expansion at Bristol are extremely weak. Their figures for inbound tourism revenue do not stand up. There is also no proof that expansion will provide any further benefit for local businesses who are increasingly exchanging travel for videoconferencing and other green solutions."

The campaigners emphasised that BIA's plans will be put through a full democratic planning process, with thorough scrutiny and consultation. They fully expect this process to highlight how Bristol airport's plans cannot possibly justify the disruption to local communities from yet more noise and more pressure on North Somerset's roads, or the wider environmental damage.

Hilary Burn went on to say: "Expansion at any airport, whether it be Heathrow or Bristol, makes a mockery of the Government's green credentials as supposed leaders on climate change. We cannot keep growing airports and expect to make the massive cuts in carbon emissions that we need to safeguard our future."

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