



Stop Bristol Airport Expansion Press Release

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FLYING MORE IS NOT AN OPTION, GOVERNMENT ADVISERS WARN

Campaigners today highlighted the folly of Bristol Airport's expansion plans following a warning from the UK Government's climate change advisors that action must be taken to curb growth in flights.

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion is writing to North Somerset District Councillors to highlight the warning, sent in a letter to the Government from Adair Turner, chair of the government's Committee on Climate Change [1].

According to the BBC, if emissions from aviation are curbed to 2005 levels - as under current UK policy - the rest of the economy will be forced to make cuts in emissions of 90% to meet government targets [2].

David Kennedy, chief executive of the Committee, told the Today programme that "flying is not sacrosanct" and in future people would have to take less flights.

Some reports suggest that the Government would have to introduce new taxes on flights to deter passengers from travelling [3].

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) welcomed the Committee's intervention, which it said only highlighted the folly of current airport expansion plans.

Jeremy Birch from SBAE said:

"Plans to expand our airports are madness given the very real challenge we face in cutting emissions to tackle climate change. As the government's advisors have made very clear, we cannot keep flying more and more as we move to a low carbon economy. As the costs of flying rise, more and more people are bound to fly less - or even not fly at all. North Somerset Councillors must face up to the reality that allowing the airport to expand would be total folly - and one that will come with a heavy price."

In the letter, Lord Turner also warned that while he supported the EU emissions trading scheme for aviation, airlines should not be given free permits as is currently proposed. This could lead to airlines making profits out of climate change. Lord Turner said in the long term emissions from aviation could not be offset.

The Committee on Climate Change is currently reviewing UK aviation policy and is due to report to the Government at the end of the year. SBAE has urged North

Somerset District Council to delay any decision on the airport's expansion plans until after this report.

Ends

Contact: Helen Burley, SBAE, 07703 731923

Notes:

[1] <http://hmccc.s3.amazonaws.com/CCCaviationLetterSoS%2009.09.09.pdf>

[2] http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_8245000/8245611.stm

[3] <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6826794.ece>