



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fight against airport's expansion far from over**

The fight against Bristol Airport's expansion plans is far from over Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) said today as they announced they are submitting a request for a Judicial Review to take their case to the high courts. The campaigners said their lawyers are confident there is a strong case against the airport's plans, which would see it nearly double in size with serious impacts for local communities and the environment.

SBAE spokesman Jeremy Birch said: "We are set to continue the fight against Bristol Airport's proposed expansion in the courts – we have been advised there is strong case against Bristol Airport's plans which would see a doubling in carbon emissions and huge increases in traffic and noise impacts on neighbouring communities.

"Our case concentrates on the economic case and the validity of the previous Government's policy on airport expansion, on which Bristol Airport's plans are based and which the Coalition has recently clearly said it opposes.

"The Government has just published the first stages of a consultation on its new airports policy, admitting that Labour's 2003 Air Transport White Paper was fundamentally flawed and gave too little weight to climate change and local environmental impacts including noise. It has condemned the previous policy as 'fundamentally out of date' and having 'got the wrong balance'.

"We have been right all along to argue against the huge increase in carbon emissions and noise that will result from the Airport's proposals which are completely unjustified. Despite its claims for growth in passenger numbers its 2010 numbers are much lower than in 2007 and half a million less than its peak in 2008.

"Claims to be essential to local business are also a fantasy as the Airport's own figures show business passengers, already able to connect to anywhere in the world, would have dropped to only 10% in 2019, compared with 20% in 2005."

Transport Secretary Phil Hammond condemned Labour's 2003 Aviation White Paper, on which Bristol Airport's planning permission was based, as "fundamentally out-of-date" at the launch of the Government's Scoping Document, which marks the start of the process for drawing up a new aviation policy.<sup>1</sup> He said the previous government had "got the balance wrong" because it failed to give enough weight to climate change and the local environmental impacts of aviation.

Hammond described climate change as "one of the gravest threats we face" and has thrown out a challenge to the aviation to get its noise and emissions under control in order that it can grow within a "genuinely sustainable framework".

Bristol Airport plans to grow from 6 million passengers to 10 million by 2019. Stop Bristol Airport Expansion, a coalition of local residents and environmental groups, has been fighting Bristol Airport's plans for nearly six years. No expansion has taken place so far.

**ENDS**

For further information contact: Susan Pearson on 07891 460942 or visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)

**Notes**

1] Scoping document 'Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation' available at the Department for Transport's website: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)