



Press Release

Monday 11 May 2015

Patrick McLoughlin a good choice of Transport Secretary to deliver Airport Expansion, says Heathrow Hub

Heathrow Hub, the independent proposal to expand Heathrow by extending the northern runway, welcomes the re-appointment of Patrick McLoughlin as Secretary of State for Transport in today's Cabinet reshuffle. Responding to the Airport Commission's imminent recommendation on expansion is one of the biggest decisions the new government faces.

Having already served as Transport Secretary Mr McLoughlin understands the issues involved. Expanding Heathrow would, for instance, generate up to £214 billion of economic value and create up to 164,000 jobs nationwide, three times as much as Gatwick.

Steve Costello, Director of Heathrow Hub, commented: "We congratulate Mr McLoughlin on his re-appointment as Transport Secretary and have today written to him to set out why we believe Heathrow Hub is the most deliverable option for airport expansion – both financially and politically.

"As the cheapest Heathrow option, estimated to be some £13.5 billion, Heathrow Hub would not require public financing and would result in huge economic benefits that will spread across the UK, over and above that which would result from expansion at Gatwick. It is significant that it is Heathrow, not Gatwick, which has the backing of British business – it is where airlines and passengers want expansion to take place.

"Most recently, the Airports Commission has also confirmed that Heathrow can expand without exceeding air quality limits – evidence that Heathrow will also be able to meet environmental requirements."

Heathrow Hub has also proposed a number of innovative proposals to mitigate noise, such as landing on the western runway extension early in the morning, abolishing night quota flights before 6am and variable approaches to enhance respite.

Pro-Heathrow campaign group, Back Heathrow, has also demonstrated public support for Heathrow expansion, with over 100,000 local people now signed up to the campaign.

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Notes to editors

Heathrow Hub is an independent, proposal for an integrated air and rail facility that doubles Heathrow's capacity and creates new opportunities for noise mitigation. For more information, please visit: www.heathrowhub.com