

CAA Response to the Airports Commission Delivery Discussion Paper

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Introduction

1. The CAA welcomes the Airports Commission's discussion paper on Delivery of New Runway Capacity (the Delivery Paper), and its focus on how new capacity can be introduced as swiftly as possible, if the government agrees to take forward the Commission's conclusions.
2. The CAA agrees with the Airports Commission's interim conclusion that there is a clear case for one additional runway to be developed in the South East of England before 2030. Without building another runway in the South East of England, consumers will suffer from higher prices, reduced choice and lower service quality.
3. However, building a new runway to benefit consumers cannot be achieved at the expense of the overflown. Aviation must manage its impact on the environment and on those living close to airports if it is to expand.
4. The CAA believes it is important to ensure that all parties are as prepared as possible to deliver any proposed additional capacity following a final report from the Airports Commission and a decision by the government of the day. As such, the CAA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Commission's thinking on these important matters.
5. As the UK's specialist aviation regulator, the CAA has significant relevant expertise in areas that are central to the Airports Commission's work. In relation to the Delivery Paper, this includes economically regulating those airport operators it judges to have significant market power (currently Heathrow and Gatwick airports); serving as the Airspace Approval and Regulatory Authority for the UK (including owning the Airspace Change Process); acting as the safety regulator for UK aviation; and housing considerable aviation noise expertise within its Environmental Research and Consultancy Department.
6. In addition, the CAA collects a broad range of statistics and survey data, and has drawn on these resources to provide analysis to the Airports Commission.
7. The CAA's previous contributions to the Airports Commission and other work on aviation capacity policy can be found at this page: [Aviation Policy: Contributing to the work of the Airports Commission](http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=589&pagetype=90&pageid=14751).¹

¹ <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=589&pagetype=90&pageid=14751>