

CECA Consultation response

Civil Engineering Contractors Association
1 Birdcage Walk
London
SW1H 9JJ

25 May 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

[Consultation on Draft Airports National Policy Statement: new runway capacity and infrastructure at airports in the South East of England](#)

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above named call for evidence.

CECA is the representative body for companies who work day-to-day to deliver, upgrade, and maintain the UK's transport and utility networks.

With more than 300 members throughout England, Scotland and Wales, we represent firms who together carry out up to 80 per cent of all civil engineering activity in the UK, in the key sectors of transport, energy, communications, waste and utilities including electricity and water.

Our members include some of the largest construction firms as well as a range of small specialist and regional contractors. Our industry supports the employment of over 200,000 people in the UK with annual activity worth £25 billion.

CECA is supportive of the Government's decision to allow for new runway capacity and infrastructure in the South East of England. The ability to fly for business and pleasure is an important part of our lives. Aviation is extremely important to UK economic growth and without it global business opportunities would be reduced.

We have long argued that there is a pressing need for more airport capacity in the South East with direct links to all regional airports. The UK economy loses nearly £1.2bn a year because of a lack of major airport capacity. Unless the congestion problem is addressed, the UK will become a less attractive place to do business with and to visit.

To this end we supported the work and the final outcome of the Davies Commission. We now call on an incoming Government to recommit to the Commission's recommendation - and the Department for Transport's preferred option - of a new northwest runway at Heathrow Airport.

To do so with no further delay will signal a step-change in long-term infrastructure planning, to the long-term benefit of the British economy and the UK taxpayer.



However, we believe that the NPS must also enable the expansion of Heathrow to be integrated into a UK wide transport strategy with new rail links to the North, South, East and West and Western and Southern Rail Access. This would ensure the new runway is easily connected to the rest of the UK and also plays its part in generating growth outside London and the South East.

We trust that you find our comments helpful and that they will be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Marie-Claude Hemming
Director of External Affairs
Civil Engineering Contractors Association