



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Friday 22nd September 2023

Net Zero Aviation

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise ([HACAN](#)) to express concern about your recent statements regarding Net Zero. Government's role must be to regulate the aviation industry's environmental and health impacts properly, by setting and enforcing standards and targets.

The Government's Jet Zero Strategy makes clear that delivering net zero aviation by 2050 is simply not possible. Indeed, even under the strategy's high ambition scenario the sector will still be responsible for emitting 21 million tonnes of carbon, which could equate to 25% of the total UK carbon budget. Consequently, the Committee on Climate Change have revised down their projections of growth in aviation, to a 25% increase on 2019 levels by 2050, if there is to be any chance of limiting the sector's emissions to the level predicted in the Jet Zero Strategy.

We recognise that the Government is taking steps to encourage investment into alternative fuels and that the UK is home to world-leading aeronautical engineering expertise. However, the pace and volume of delivery is unlikely to produce the required technological breakthrough within the timeframe. If government continue to support unfettered growth in aviation without robust and clear targets, then the the pace of delivery will further reduce and force greater operational constraints on other sectors of the economy.

Our members care passionately about the environment because they experience the daily blight caused by the noise, air and carbon pollution associated with operations at the UK's largest airport. We have long campaigned against unsustainable expansion, whether through increases in runway or terminal capacity, but have never sought to place restrictions on people's ability to take a holiday or visit friends and family.



However, the time has come for a serious conversation about controlling the insatiable hunger of a sector that still does not pay the full externalities of its operations. Our members believe in the polluter pays principle and would encourage government to consider the introduction of a frequent flyer levy. Investment that decarbonises aviation must be increased, but the costs and risks of that investment must be borne fully by the polluter - the industry and its customers - not by taxpayers.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Beckford
Coordinator, HACAN
paul@hacan.co.uk