



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

24 July 2026

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

I would like to start by congratulating you on your selection as Labour leader and consequent appointment as Prime Minister.

In your first week in office, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you concerning a matter of importance to my constituents, to Londoners and a matter which will impact a number of regions in the UK – this is, of course, the building of a third runway at Heathrow Airport.

As you will know, 18 months ago the Chancellor extended an invitation for companies to submit proposals for a third runway during a speech on growth. To all intents and purposes, it is widely accepted, regardless of what side of the debate people sit on, that this invitation was intended to act as a sign that the UK is serious about growth.

However, the reality of Heathrow expansion is that even optimistic projections show that it will not bring anywhere near the growth the former Chancellor expected. In the Draft Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement, it is stated that the economic benefit of third runway is just 0.03-0.05% of the UK's GDP, and this 'growth' will not be produced until 2060.

This is all while 276,000 aircraft will be added to our skies each year, producing 6million more tonnes of carbon emissions each year and exposing hundreds of thousands of more people to aircraft noise. This is not to even mention the houses that will be destroyed in the construction of a third runway and the disruption that will be caused by digging up the M25.

As you correctly pointed out in June 2018, an expansion of Heathrow would also divert investment away from the North.

This was underscored by the previous Airport National Policy Statement, which showed that regional airports would be adversely impacted by expansion without direct Government intervention. This includes an estimated 5million less passengers using Manchester Airport.

You have the ability to put a stop to this white elephant project, and I am urging you to do so.

Thank you for considering my letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Olney". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Sarah" and last name "Olney" written in a single line.

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park