

Consult? – No, insult!

Government consultation ignores the truth and just about everything else – they can't even provide copies of the full consultation document to residents

Myth: By now 230,000 households ⁽¹⁾ around Heathrow will be becoming familiar with the proposals to expand Heathrow, as the Department for Transport, 15 page, Summary Document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow" lands with the rest of the post.

Fact: By now 230,000 households around Heathrow will have received the Department for Transport Summary Document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow". It will reveal nothing.

There are no maps showing noise contours, levels of pollution, flight paths or roads.

There isn't even a roadshow venue in Sipson, the village to be destroyed.

BUT there is a very biased Response Form with dangerously loaded questions

Myth: You can obtain a full consultation document (238 pages) from the DfT

Fact: At 14:06 on the day the consultation was launched, a Harmondsworth resident received the following message

From: Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport
[<mailto:heathrowconsultation@capita.co.uk>]
Sent: 22 November 2007 14:06
To:
Subject: Out of Stock - 3995921.3

Dear

Order number

Thank you for your order.

We are sorry but the following items are out of stock.

Qty	Product	Description
1	78APD02904HCSUM	Adding Capacity At Heathrow Airpo

These items will be despatched as a priority as soon as stock is available.

If your order has not been received within 10 working days then please call a member of our customer services team on 0845 600 4170 quoting your order number

Customer Services Team

Geraldine Nicholson, Chair of campaign group NoTRAG, said "The government is not only treating the people of the Heathrow villages with contempt, but also those under the new flight paths. Every person affected by the proposals should receive a copy of the full consultation – do the people of Harrow know they are about to get more noise? The Summary Document only gives us their word that they can meet the air quality and noise limits. Given the governments recent "run of bad luck" how can we believe anything coming out of Whitehall?"

Christine Shilling, Press Secretary for NoTRAG commented "The Government has under-estimated the level of opposition ⁽²⁾ to the expansion of Heathrow and is grossly irresponsible even considering a near 70% ⁽³⁾ increase in flights. You just can't increase flights, passengers and traffic, stay within the EU pollution limits and reduce the noise impact without smart data manipulation. The battle lines have been drawn. Make no mistake about it – we are here to stay – the day a Spanish company brings in the bulldozers to destroy an English community is the day democracy in the UK is dead."

Notes for Editors:

- (1)** Ministerial briefing held 21st November 2007 informed groups that 230k households in the Heathrow communities would be mailed the Summary Document
- (2)** Stop Heathrow Expansion Coalition www.stopheathrowexpansion.com
- (3)** Gillian Merron, former Aviation Minister announced a third runway could see flights increase to 800,000. Flights last year were at 477,000 – a 67% increase.

For further information contact

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