

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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Weas Liam

Thank you for your email of 1 March to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding a recent appeal decision granting planning permission for the expansion of Bristol Airport. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

As you may be aware, the decision is now subject to a legal challenge in the High Court by Bristol Airport Action Network. In light of this, the matter is now sub judice – under judicial consideration and therefore prohibited from public discussion elsewhere – until the judgment of the Court is published and no further comment may be made until the litigation is concluded.

I should add that the Court's consideration of the grounds of challenge must be based entirely on the lawfulness of the decision in terms of its accordance with planning legislation, rather than any personal wishes or vested interests. You will therefore appreciate that it would be improper for the Secretary of State to personally intervene in the legal process.

Thank you again for your email. I hope you find this information helpful.

RT HON STUART ANDREW MP