

From: [John Hirst](#)
To: [Palmer, Leanne](#)
Subject: Bristol Airport expansion plans: appeal reference: APP/D0121/W/20/3259234.
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Dear Sir/Madam,

In my role as Chief Executive of Destination Bristol, I write in support of the proposals to expand Bristol Airport.

I understand that the Planning Inspectorate is now inviting comments on Bristol Airport's appeal against the decision by North Somerset Council to refuse its application to raise the ceiling on the number of passengers it is permitted to 12 million per annum.

Our city and region are key destinations for international visitors, ease of access is vital and in the future we will need to grow Bristol airport, this will then make it easier for more visitors to access our region easily and directly without the need for additional road travel from London.

Economic recovery is absolutely critical to the country as it emerges from the pandemic because the tourism sector in particular has been decimated over the last 12 months. Expanding the capacity of the airport will be central to these recovery plans if we are to incentivise in-bound international travel, re-establish employment opportunities in the hospitality sector and attempt to make good the losses of the past year.

It is equally important that robust mitigations are agreed in order to address the adverse impacts that will be generated by the expansion in capacity, primarily in relation to carbon emissions. Only by establishing comprehensive measures to counter-balance the negative impacts of the development can the clear economic advantages of the proposal be realised.

I am pleased to see that the airport has reduced its own carbon emissions by 15% in the last 4 years and has ambitious plans to go even further by making the airport carbon neutral by 2025 and achieving net zero by 2050.

John Hirst
Chief Executive | Destination Bristol

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