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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Major Casework
The Planning Inspectorate
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John Penrose MP

RE: Bristol Airport Inquiry

I am writing in response to the Bristol Airport expansion plans that are the subject of this Inquiry.

Over the past few years, many local residents have been in touch with me, including most of the Parish Councils representing the nearby rural villages, to express their concerns about the impact an expansion of the Airport could have. To make sure these concerns were heard, in 2019 I took the rare step of writing to the Secretary of State asking that he call the Airport's application in. Of course this wasn't necessary in the end because North Somerset Council voted against the application, but I hope this shows how seriously I and local residents have taken this issue.

More broadly, many local residents understand and accept the substantial economic benefits and local jobs which a fast-growing regional airport like Bristol can bring to local businesses through better connectivity to export markets, international suppliers and investment. But they also remain concerned about increased congestion from extra airport traffic on local roads; of extra aircraft noise on homes under the flightpath; and of aircraft engine emissions on air quality too. The expansion should not be allowed to go ahead without strong and effective measures in place to ensure that these very significant and legitimate concerns are being properly addressed so local residents' quality of life will improve in future, rather than getting any worse.

Yours sincerely,

John Penrose
MP for Weston-super-Mare