

Please accept this as my written submission to the Planning Inquiry on Bristol Airport Expansion beginning on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

As a resident of Bristol I applaud the decision of North Somerset Council to refuse planning permission for the expansion of Bristol Airport. I believe their decision is in the immediate and longer-term interests of residents in the south west of England and south Wales, of our children and grand-children and generations to come.

I strongly object to the appeal lodged against this decision and ask the Planning Inquiry group to uphold and support the decision taken by North Somerset. My reasons are as follows:

1. There is no debate around the fact that aircraft have a large and disproportionate negative effect on the climate, one that will contribute to an unresolvable climate disaster for this earth if it is not curtailed urgently. This has been recognised most recently by the EU – not known for its speedy decision-making - who are planning to tax aviation fuel. Alternative less noxious fuel is not expected to be available over the next 30 years or more, according to Airbus (reported by Reuters). Even when/if it is, the illegal actions of many car manufacturers in camouflaging the level of diesel emissions in cars gives an indication of how strongly airline manufacturers and purchasers may resist the need to change when change has a potential impact on profits. We don't have the time to wait for these forces to play themselves out.

2. Climate change is speeding up at a rate even faster than foreseen by experts. The current forest fires in California, the new and massively worrying fires in Russia, the recent ones in Canada and the all too familiar ones in Brazil and Australia provide a graphic illustration of what's at stake for the planet and for particular areas. Within the UK and in the south west climate change is leading to flash floods, flooded plains and coastal erosion and a significant rise in sea-levels. Managing these events and trying to prevent their impact will make huge inroads on our local and national economy, if indeed they are manageable at all.

3. It is dishonest and malicious of the airport owners to ignore the impact on the climate and air pollution of the flights in and out of the airport and the increased traffic levels that will ensue as part of the planned expansion. The decision taken by North Somerset reflects the will of North Somerset itself and the majority of the neighbouring councils – who have carefully considered any benefits against the immediate and longer-term costs of expansion for the local environment and quality of life. Our mix of urban and rural environments and quality of life is one of the reasons the south-west attracts a skilled and innovative workforce and diverse economy. Congestion and deaths related to air pollution are already a major issue in the area. This expansion will lead to a great increase in grid-locked roads and polluted air, as well as the major impact on the climate itself.

I urge the Inquiry to please honour the UK's commitment to carbon neutrality – a difficult challenge for us all and an impossible one if airport expansion goes ahead.

Thank you.

Margaret Boushel