

22 July 2021

TO: Joanna Vincent – Public Enquiry Manager

Bristol Airport - APP/D0121/W/20/3259234

Dear Ms Vincent

Please find below a written version of my spoken statement provided to the enquiry on Thursday 22 July 2021.

I am Richard Bonner, a Partner at Arcadis, an international design and consultancy for natural and built assets. In a personal capacity I am also President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative, and a board member of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

I am speaking today to express Arcadis' support for Bristol Airport's planning appeal to increase capacity from the current limit of 10 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 12mppa.

Bristol Airport is a key enabler of economic growth, jobs and international connectivity generating significant Gross Value Add to the South West economy. As the UK's eighth largest airport, it connects businesses across the region, including Arcadis with 500 people based in Bristol and the South West, to over 100 destinations, employs 4,000 direct jobs, and around 25,000 indirect jobs across the region.

The airport's role is going to be increasingly important in a successful post-Covid recovery. Increasing the airport's capacity will help propel the region out of the pandemic, adding an additional 710 direct jobs in North Somerset and over 5,000 indirect jobs regionally, with a focus on the region's most deprived areas. It will bring an additional estimated £430 million to the economy of the South West and South Wales at a time when this could not be more crucial.

As one of the largest built and natural environment consultancies in the world, it is also reassuring to see that the airport takes the reduction of its carbon footprint very seriously. Over the past five years, Bristol Airport has shown that it is one of the UK's leading airports for pioneering sustainability, highlighted by its success in reducing emissions and now generating some of its electricity from on-site renewables. The airport's growth plans will look to build on these achievements, making commitments to carbon neutrality, which we understand has now been achieved, four years ahead of the stated target of 2025 and encouraging greater use of public transport through focused investment on new bus and coach connections and facilities. In particular proposals to decarbonise surface access and operations.

Though carbon reduction is a challenge for all infrastructure sectors, we have noted that the aviation industry has already made great strides through the Carbon Roadmap to Net Zero, and the adoption of sustainable aviation fuels to reduce its impact, as an example. Bristol Airport's ambition to become a net zero airport by 2030, complement these measures and demonstrate its commitment to balancing the benefits and impacts of future airport growth.

As a member of the South West business community, we believe growth at the airport will help to drive the region forward as we look beyond the pandemic and showcase the South West as the dynamic business and cultural centre that we know it is, and to avoid any disadvantage that may occur if growth is restricted.