

AVIATION WORKERS CRITICISE BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION PLANS

What:

Bristol Airport has been [given permission to expand](#) after North Somerset Council had previously [rejected permission](#), this has been appealed by Bristol Airport via public inquiry. The airport can now go ahead with an infrastructure expansion that increases its capacity from 10 million passengers to 12 million passengers per year.

When:

Decision released on [2 February 2022](#), after public inquiry from 20 July – 8 October 2021.

Who:

[Safe Landing](#), a group of aviation workers, who believe such expansions are dangerous for secure long-term employment and who [gave evidence](#) at the public inquiry against the expansion.

Why:

We believe that the [statements](#) made by the CEO of Bristol Airport, David Lees, that the expansion will “*deliver sustainable growth*” and “*create thousands of new jobs in the years ahead*” is deliberately misleading.

Our group directly counters this narrative, by providing the voice of actual aviation workers who believe that this type of growth is actively dangerous for future job security.

Safe and secure long-term employment relies on a credible path to reduce total aviation emissions. Bristol Airport’s expansion plans fail to do that, so actively represent a threat to workers as any growth in jobs will not be viable in the medium-term.

The total CO2 emissions from Bristol Airport will increase with this expansion, and non-CO2 emissions (which have an even greater warming effect) have been ignored.

As aviation workers who will still be working in the 2030s and 2040s, we demand our leaders be honest about the impact of aviation and have credible plans to reduce total emissions with time. If they do not do this, then our future jobs and incomes are **built on sand**.

The local authority has decided that total emissions are a national government concern. Meanwhile, the UK Government states that airport expansion decisions are a matter for local planning authorities. **This buck passing has to stop.** Reducing total emissions is everybody’s responsibility. We need to see accountability in addressing the **black hole** in our aviation strategy, left by the failure to consider demand management & capacity constraints.

We’re concerned that if airport expansion goes ahead, it will waste significant financial resources and time. We should instead pause expansion plans until there is more certainty regarding the future of aviation, and in the meantime direct efforts towards future-proofing the airport, airlines and associated jobs, for the necessary transformation of air travel.

Safe Landing has also been critical of the UK Government’s national “[Jet Zero](#)” Strategy. Read our response to this consultation [here](#).

ABOUT SAFE LANDING

[Safe Landing](#) is a group of professionals within the aviation industry: pilots, cabin crew, airport staff, aerospace engineers and factory workers.

As aviation workers, we demand that our industry leaders:

1. Be honest about the total environmental impact of flying
2. Be realistic about the limits of technology to solve this problem
3. Be transparent about future regulations required to reduce emissions
4. Have a plan that accounts for this and supports workers during any transition

CONTACT

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**Safe
Landing**

AVIATION WORKERS
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE