

# VOICES FOR OUR AIRPORT



## RESPONSE TO THE AIRPORTS COMMISSION CONSULTATION

**FEBRUARY 2015**





**BACK**  
HEATHROW



**Back Heathrow gives a voice to the silent majority in favour of a bigger, better and quieter Heathrow Airport**



Sir Howard Davies  
Chairman of the Airports Commission  
Airports Commission  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

February 2015

Dear Sir Howard,

As campaign co-ordinator of Back Heathrow I would like to respond to the Airports Commission's request for comments on the proposals for increased airport capacity in the south east.

I wanted to be able to set out in full our views on airport growth and to provide the Commission with a sense of what I believe the majority of west London residents are saying about their airport.

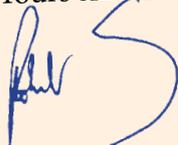
Since we opened our office in Hounslow we have been inundated with calls, emails and letters explaining why people believe that their future and that of those living to the west of London depends on a flourishing hub airport. Indeed, the Commission will know from the views sent to your office just how strongly many of our supporters feel about the need for growth at Heathrow.

Our supporters want jobs, growth and prosperity for Heathrow's local communities but they have had to endure much over the past few years. Firstly their voices were drowned out by a minority claiming to speak on their behalf, then came a proposal from the Mayor of London to close Heathrow and build a new airport in the estuary. Soon after, Heathrow's local council expressed a desire to build a new town on the airport site before some opponents threatened to do all in their power to obstruct the supportive majority.

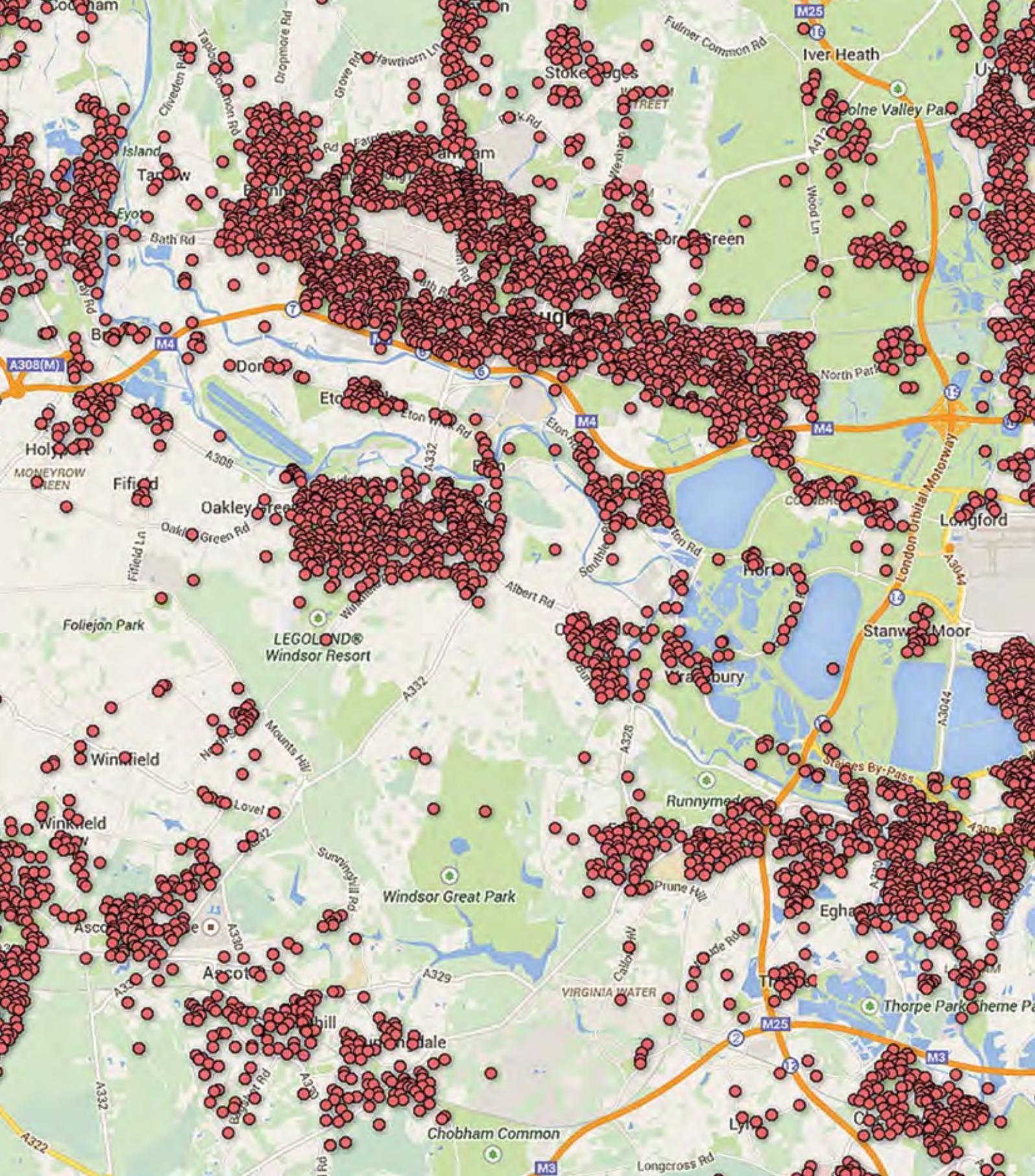
Back Heathrow has given a voice to so many local residents – just a few of the letters and emails are printed in our submission – which is why we have grown from a few hundred supporters to more than 80,000 in just one year. It is only the beginning.

I hope that reading through this document you will understand the pride and optimism that so many west Londoners feel towards their airport. We at Back Heathrow do not have a view about whether the Commission supports Heathrow Airport's proposal or Heathrow Hub's proposal but we do feel passionately that the UK's hub airport should be allowed to grow.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Gray  
Campaign-Co-ordinator  
Back Heathrow

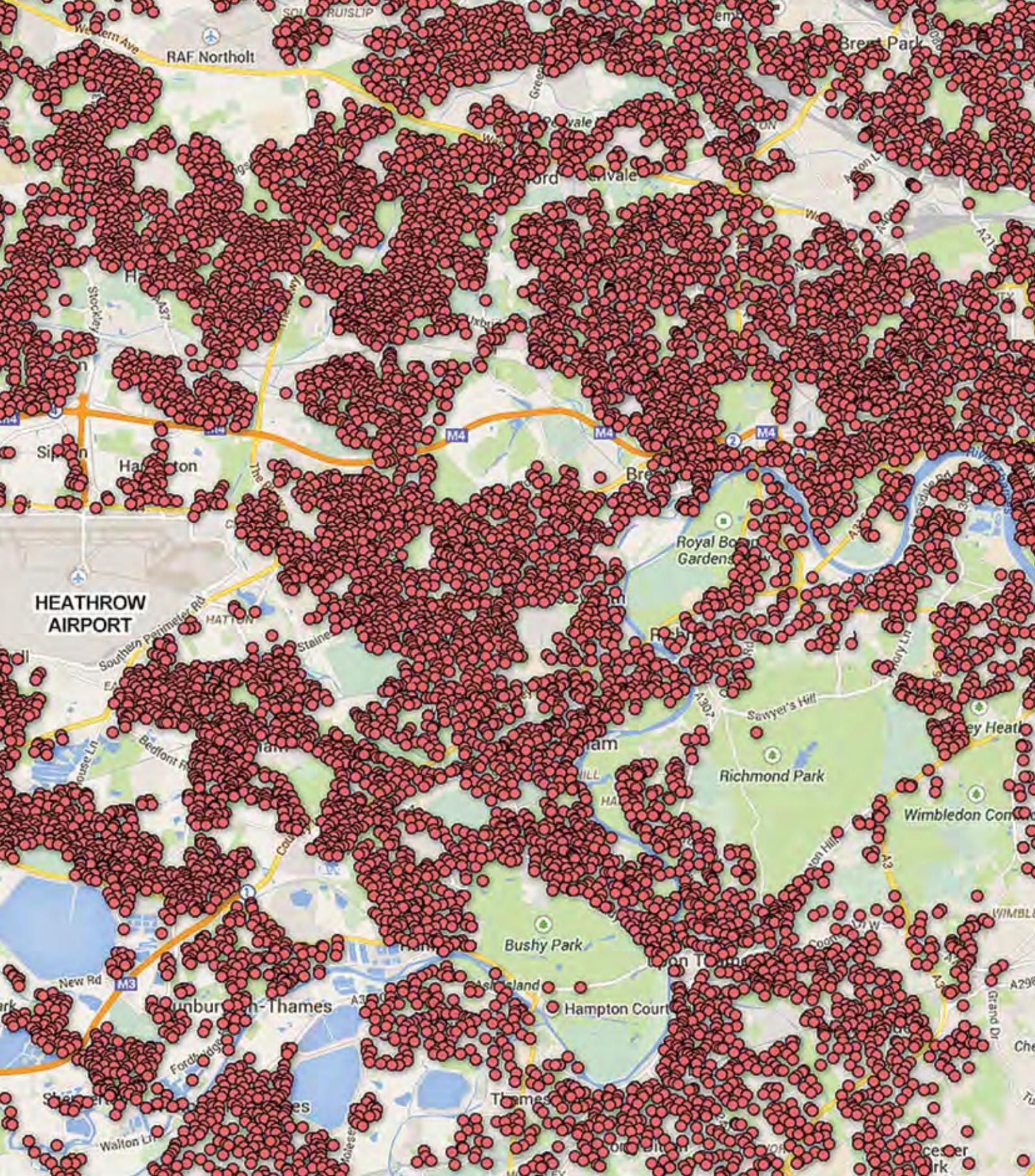


**BACK**  
HEATHROW

**80,000+**

Each red dot represents

**WWW**



# SUPPORTERS

a post code where one or more of Heathrow's supporters live  
[backheathrow.org](http://backheathrow.org) @backheathrow

# RESPONSE TO THE AIRPORTS COMMISSION CONSULTATION

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# WELCOME: WE ARE BACK HEATHROW



Back Heathrow launched as a community campaign in September 2013 with seed funding from Heathrow Airport. Heathrow remains an important supporter of our campaign, alongside local businesses, Heathrow Hub and many residents who have chosen to make donations. Today, with more than 80,000 supporters it is one of the UK's fastest growing campaigns.

For many years, independent polls had shown that there was a majority of local residents in communities surrounding Heathrow who supported the airport's expansion. It is important to remember that these people had not been heard before but they are fiercely proud of their airport and the role it plays as a major employer and force for good in west London. Many residents were simply becoming fed-up of a vocal anti-Heathrow minority that they felt did not speak for them.

Back Heathrow provided a platform to bring supporters of the airport together. No sooner had we launched than thousands of people began to

sign up and get in touch. We started to receive letters and emails from residents, including a Second World War veteran who had lived near Heathrow since the 1940s and a young apprentice embarking on an exciting career at the airport. Teachers, airport workers, doctors, councillors, parents and local business leaders came forward to tell us how much they wanted the airport to grow and succeed.

Many residents have since become more involved in the campaign, always popping into our office in Hounslow. Our incredible supporters have held meetings, run street stalls, opened envelopes, waved placards, recruited friends, circulated petitions, displayed posters and car stickers, spoken to their local politicians, written to their local newspapers – and even loaned us a lorry!

A bigger Heathrow can also be better and quieter – it has to be. Residents most affected by expansion should always be fairly and generously compensated. We support a growing Heathrow, but not at any cost. ■

**“I give 100% support for Back Heathrow to keep Heathrow and maintain it as the busiest hub airport”.**

**MANO, Hounslow South**

**“Heathrow is essential to the local and national economy. We have the basis for a truly great airport and it must be expanded to achieve this.”**

**MR PARK, Feltham**

**“I cannot bear to think how some can even think of taking a plate of food off so many tables as loads and loads of people rely on Heathrow for a living: it's a way of life.”**

**MR RAMPHUL, Hounslow**

**“Heathrow Airport is a valuable asset to the residents of Hillingdon, providing both employment and further business investment in the area.”**

**MISS JOHNSON, Hayes**

# HEATHROW IS A SUCCESS STORY...

**“Today, as has been the case for many years, the greatest industry in South East England is right here on our doorstep - it’s called Heathrow Airport. Ever since it all began in 1947 no one has lived here or has moved here without the knowledge that one of the most popular and successful airports in the world is right on our doorstep. I believe that Heathrow currently accounts for over 110,000 jobs and I am proud to say that for forty years I worked in the demanding yet fulfilling aviation industry.”**

**ALAN HOLLAND-AVERY,  
Staines**



**Undoubtedly Heathrow has been a huge success story. It has attracted more people to the area, businesses have set up around Heathrow and the local economy is thriving. People have money in their pockets and local businesses and the communities benefit. No fewer than 114,000 jobs in the local community and a further 250,000 jobs in the wider region rely on a successful Heathrow Airport.**

As an island trading nation, Heathrow has been our major gateway to the world for the last 60 years. Its connections bring jobs, trade and economic growth to the UK. Taking 78% of all UK long-haul flights, Heathrow is used by 82 airlines and carries 73 million passengers a year. Under their feet travels 86% of UK air freight representing one quarter of our national exports. Heathrow is one of the most famous airports in the world and the busiest two-runway airport anywhere.

The fortunes of local communities and Heathrow are inextricably linked. If Heathrow declines, so too will local economies and standards of living. If

Heathrow grows and flourishes, and responds to changing business needs, so too will the local economy grow and everyone will be better off as a result.

Heathrow employs 76,000 people on site and a further 38,000 in airport related jobs. But that’s only half the story. In the boroughs around the airport it is clear that the local economy is dependent on Heathrow flourishing – for example in Hounslow there are 10,750 residents who work at Heathrow and a further 9,500 who work in airport related jobs. In Hillingdon the total is just under 17,000, Ealing almost 11,000, Slough nearly 8,000 and Spelthorne 7,000.

In addition Heathrow attracts major employers to set up their headquarters near to the airport – of the top 300 companies in the UK, 202 are located within 25 miles of it.

Since Heathrow opened as a commercial airport in 1947 the fortunes of local communities have grown side by side with the airport. Heathrow has not moved towards people; people have moved towards Heathrow. ■

# ...BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM



It is because of Heathrow's success that it is operating at almost full capacity and has a waiting list of dozens of airlines wanting take-off and landing slots at the airport. They could operate out of Gatwick or Stansted but this isn't viable. Heathrow has grown over the years to establish itself as the front door to Britain but it must not become closed to new business.

Yet Heathrow is full to bursting. At present, the airport is operating at 98% capacity and facing increasing demands from many international airlines who wish to operate more frequently, as well as others who are extremely frustrated by the lack of available slots at Heathrow for new services. The airlines are simply responding to the demands of their customers who are saying they want more flights on existing routes and the ability to reach new destinations, especially in parts of the world – such as China, Russia, India and South America – where economic growth is offering great opportunities for trade.

The hub model is in demand. Even 90% of the so-called hub-busting aircraft, like 787s, are being ordered

by airlines which operate through the global network of hub airports. The decline of the hub airport has been greatly exaggerated by Gatwick, for obvious reasons.

If Heathrow is not allowed to expand and a rival overseas hub airport steps in to provide the new flights demanded by airlines, then the businesses that have set up around Heathrow because of its unique connectivity are likely to move away. It is highly likely that these businesses will not just be lost to the local area but from the country as a whole as they relocate to be near the hub airports in continental Europe that can meet their travel needs.

This will have a highly damaging impact as jobs are lost, removing money and wealth from the local, regional and national economy. Inevitably, over time, Heathrow will shrink and more and more jobs will be lost, leading to a spiral of decline as airlines and businesses that rely on a flourishing airport and a successful local economy make the decision to move on.

**It doesn't have to be this way. ■**

**“This is no longer a one sided issue as portrayed in the media. It is high time to give people like us a voice. Our young people need jobs and this is our chance.”**

**JEAN MICHEL AND CATHERINE,  
West Drayton**

**“I think Heathrow is something we are all very proud of. We should support its expansion to continue to secure jobs there and also to support businesses there, of which there are many.”**

**MRS BLACK, Bracknell**

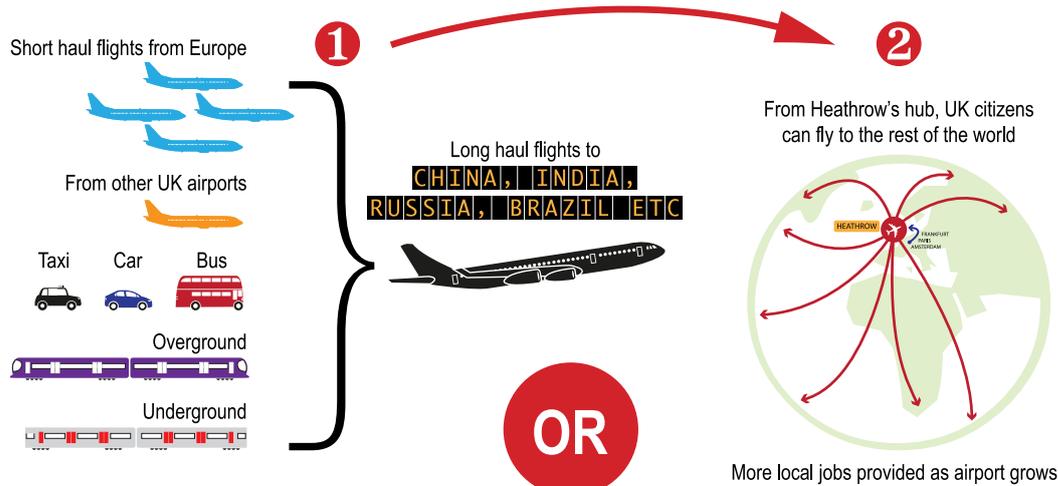
**“The loss of jobs is not what anybody needs right now. This is a great campaign. Fight on, and on and on. I really hope you win.”**

**CAROLE, Southall**

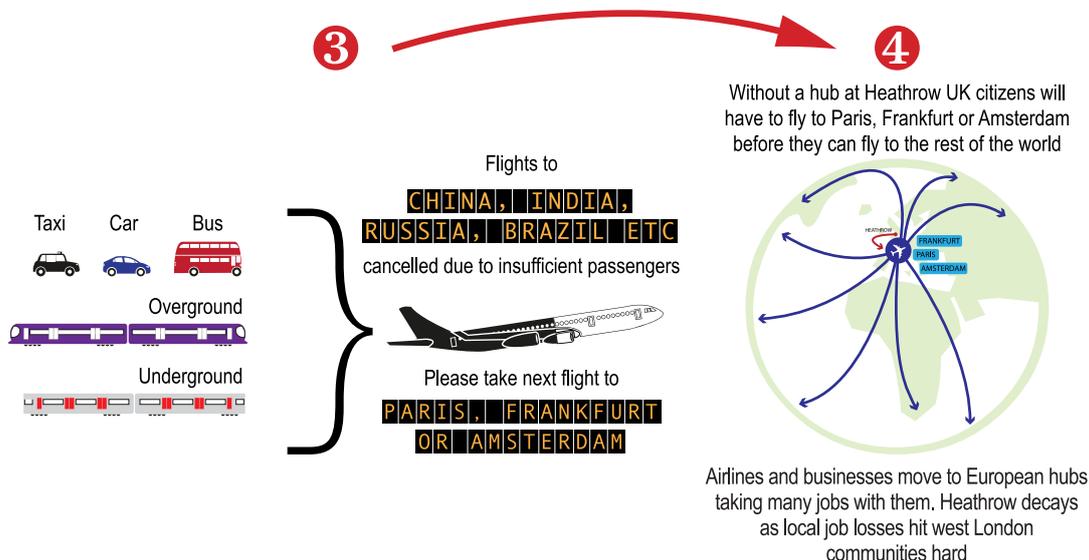
# WHY A HUB AIRPORT IS VITAL TO THE UK

## HEATHROW: OUR GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

### Heathrow the UK's hub airport to the world



### Heathrow decays to become smaller feeder airport - handing jobs and growth to Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam



Air travel is facilitated by the global network of hub airports that allow the transfer of passengers between the smaller and larger aircraft serving short-haul and long-haul destinations. Heathrow is the UK's only hub airport and one of only four major hubs in Europe. At Heathrow domestic passengers can combine with both those from other European airports and valuable freight so long-haul destinations to all

parts of the world become viable. And, vice versa, as flights arrive in the UK from far flung places across the planet. No other UK airport does what Heathrow does.

**We think it matters to local communities, the region and the country whether our only hub airport is allowed to grow or decline. ■**

# SEIZING A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY



**“I support the expansion of Heathrow Airport. It is a tradition for people I know, Asian and White British alike. I support the creation of jobs and job security alike.”**

**ANA, Northolt**

**There is a golden opportunity for local communities and the UK if Heathrow is able to build extra runway capacity. A decision to support expansion at the UK’s only hub airport will send a message to the world that our country wants to remain a central part of the international air travel network. The subsequent impact on business decisions, employment opportunities and economic growth will be wholly positive.**

For the hundreds of businesses – small and large - that choose to locate near Heathrow because of its fantastic connectivity, a positive decision on expansion would provide much needed certainty on the future and, potentially, unlock large amounts of new investment for the economy.

The boost to employment through expansion at Heathrow would be immense. In the first instance it would help secure the future of the 114,000 existing jobs that depend on the airport. And, expansion brings even better news for fresh opportunities with projections estimating that up to 180,000 new jobs would

be created across the UK, with no fewer than 50,000 of these being in the boroughs neighbouring the airport. The effect on levels of unemployment in these local areas would be seismic with a 50% reduction envisaged.

Alongside huge levels of job creation there will also be a major push on apprenticeships at an expanded Heathrow. As part of a wider programme of investment in skills and training, the airport has committed to 10,000 new apprenticeships being created by 2030. When taken in combination with the number of new jobs being created by expansion this vote of confidence in young people could effectively end youth unemployment in the boroughs neighbouring Heathrow, a potentially historic moment.

We believe it is right to say that the future of local families and communities depend on Heathrow. Thousands of local people are now speaking up and saying YES to the golden opportunity that a growing and successful Heathrow would bring to west London and to the UK. ■

**“Heathrow keeps Hounslow and Hillingdon going. It needs to expand.”**

**HUGH, Hanworth**

**“Heathrow has been part of this area my whole working life. It has influenced every part of my family, providing jobs and social opportunities.”**

**CHRISTINE, Taplow**

# LOCAL RESIDENTS SAY YES TO HEATHROW

**“The only sensible answer is to expand Heathrow. The infrastructure is already there with direct motorway links, rail links, tube and coaches. Hundreds of companies based in and around the Heathrow area operate on the strength of Heathrow Airport and the business that it generates, and that’s not just the freight related companies. Heathrow should be able to compete with the best of Europe’s airports.”**

**STEVE OSTROWSKI, Sipson**

**“The continued success and growth of Heathrow is essential for businesses operating in the west of London and Thames Valley.”**

**MATTHEW BATTLE, Richmond**

“ I have lived in this area for 45 years and my husband has lived here for most of his 76 years. Heathrow has always been part of the environment and we have looked on it as our capital city. It has employed so many of our friends directly and indirectly with the hundreds of other businesses that have flourished due to the trade Heathrow has brought to the area. A Heathrow in decline will rip the heart out of the community. Without a heart, the arteries leading from it will slowly die. ”

**VAL CLARK, Ashford**

“ From working at Heathrow for 14 years, I have seen the transformation of the airport into the 21st century. It’s a vibrant and exciting place to work and provides more than just jobs to the community. It is the community. Growth at Heathrow is also essential to the future of London’s standing as a leading global hub. ”

**SUKH AUJLA, Slough**

“ I’ve lived near the airport for years. Heathrow expansion would be fantastic, bringing more jobs to the area. I understand that noise is an issue for some people but they knew they were about to move near an airport. A couple of years ago, Hillingdon council sent me a voting form on a new Heathrow runway but the literature was so biased against that I refused to vote. The council leader says that closure would benefit residents but that’s because most of the residents would end up on benefits! ”

**GARY DIXON, Hillingdon**

“ I believe a third runway would reduce stacking and reduce pollution, noise and delays. The majority of our air cargo exports go via Heathrow and most export companies are located in west London and the Thames Valley. Failure to expand Heathrow would not only jeopardise 114,000 on-site jobs but many more from local suppliers including contractors, logistics, catering, hotels, taxi drivers and industry. ”

**TONY BOVILL, Ascot**

“ I live directly under the flight path, have done so for 40 years. LHR is a vital artery for the whole of the UK. I wholeheartedly support any expansion be it runways or terminals. ”

**RAVI, Heston**



“ I believe that economic sustainability and employment is the bedrock of any community. Heathrow is the blood line of our community in west London and without it the consequences would be disastrous. Doing nothing is not an option if we are to meet the needs and aspirations of our growing population. To ensure Heathrow is viable it has to be allowed to grow in order to generate prosperity amongst our communities. ”

JAGS SANGHERA, Southall

“ We think it is vitally important to back expansion and for local politicians to do all they can to ensure it goes ahead. The whole infrastructure around Heathrow depends on the airport to survive. My husband has been employed there since 1988 and before I left to have children, I worked there for 10 years and that’s where we met. ”

JENNIFER TAYLOR, Sunbury on Thames

“ I find that the convenience of Heathrow now well outweighs the reduced noise nuisance we have had since quieter aircraft and take-off procedures were introduced. A new runway further west should further reduce noise. Heathrow has a huge and established support infrastructure, is already highly accessible by public transport, and is on the right side of London to serve the rest of the UK’s population ”

PETER MYNORS, Ealing Broadway

“ We support the expansion of Heathrow because it is the lifeblood of the area and keeps us on excellent public transport routes. But also because we want Heathrow to be the world’s largest airport and the hub for Europe to the rest of the world that it was once destined to be. ”

STUART AND MARGARET FREARSON, Cranford

“ We feel that as the hub airport of the UK, already established and employing some 114,000 people as well as the only airport servicing those living to the west of London that serious consideration should be given to a new runway. This will ensure the continued expansion of trade within the UK. The Government must make a decision soon. ”

BRIAN AND ROSIE WELSH, Ickenham

**“I did a four year apprenticeship scheme, which I finished last year to do engineering at Heathrow Airport. I decided to go for the apprenticeship route and get paid while I learn, rather than getting into massive debt at university. People moved to west London knowing there’s an airport close by and knowing that there’s going to be noise. You wouldn’t expect to move to east London and the bells to stop ringing just because you moved there. I think the noise is an issue to some people, but for the majority of people in west London like me, we know that there’s an airport close by and we know that it brings many jobs to the community and for me the noise isn’t an issue at all.”**

**SALLY ROSE, Hanwell**

# COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS SAY YES TO HEATHROW

**“It has my full support. I have lived most of my life near Heathrow and I have seen it progress to meet needs and it has to stay that way.”**

**BOB, Feltham**

**“Any jobs Heathrow expansion creates can only be a good thing. Heathrow was there first! It gave my late husband a career that lasted over 32 years.”**

**JULIE, Slough**

**“I have seen Heathrow from a bunch of tents in 1947 to what it is today. Expansion was good for the local community then and it will be good for the local community now.”**

**MR VINCENT, Isleworth**

**“Since 1938 I have lived in the Heathrow area, with the coming of Heathrow it brought many jobs and financial wealth to the area.”**

**MR MATTHEWS, Feltham**

“ As Deputy Head of Greenford High School, a very large, outstanding and successful comprehensive secondary school in Southall, I would like to express that we are fully behind the expansion of Heathrow. We have had strong links with the airport over the years, from the way it serves our community in terms of a whole range of businesses and crucial employment, but also through the many learning opportunities and experiences it has afforded our youngsters.

As a result of Heathrow expansion, not only will we be able to build on these experiences for our students, but also offer a local route to high level business and technical careers. We have a large Post 16 centre of 600+ students, over half of which study a business related course. More than 200 of our Year 13s go on to further education at University, and a growing number are choosing to study Engineering. A number of students are also following Level 4 and aiming for Level 5 Apprenticeships.

However, over the years we have found that our students move away from the area to seek high level training positions or start careers in their Post graduate field of study. From our school’s point of view, the main advantage we see in the vital expansion at Heathrow is in providing these students an incredible opportunity for training and pursuing their chosen careers locally.

**PAUL MANBY, Greenford High School, Southall**

“ I have worked at Heathrow for 35 years and lived nearby by choice for 48 years. I also chaired the British Airways charity Operation Happy Child over a period of 28 years. Heathrow is important because it is London’s capital and financial lifeline. We do not want it to go the way of the coal and steel industries. I support expansion of Heathrow because it is the main hub for England and thousands of people and businesses rely on it for work and jobs within a 25 mile radius. Transport links are better than Gatwick which is a no-go.

**DOUG WOOD MBE, Ashford**

“ We should definitely get a new runway at Heathrow as soon as possible because the airport has got to saturation point. I live near the flight path so I know about noise but it provides jobs and helps our community flourish. It is essential that this airport should survive and expand.

**SURINDER SINGH BENIPAL, Owner,  
Hounslow Heath Post Office**



“At 9am on 25th August 1919, some 95 years ago, the company called the Aircraft Transport and Travel Company flew the first scheduled flight to Paris. So the original London Airport was here before any of us. I was born on the 19th December 1944, in Twickenham under the flight path some 25 years after the first regular air service from Hounslow, not Heston, not Heathrow but Hounslow. 1944 was the year the two new main runways were being built. I have lived under London Airport’s runways all my life. I have lived in the same house now for 28 years and intend living there for the rest of my life. I am totally in favour of Heathrow expansion because it creates a vast amount of jobs and therefore wealth. Many people I know including family members and friends rely upon it for their livelihood.”

**CHRISTOPHER DURKIN**, Chair of Hounslow Town Centre Neighbourhood Forum Group

I live on the door step of one of the greatest gateways to the world. I live my daily life within the success of the airport and what it has brought to my community directly or indirectly and whilst I am aware of advantages and disadvantages it brings, Heathrow’s journey has been a huge achievement. I want to be part of a Heathrow success story and offer opportunities to the local community and the future generation of young people. I want my son to be able to find work and not line up in a queue of 50 people chasing one job because we allowed the demise of Heathrow.

**STEVE O’KEEFFE**, local employer, Langley

I am the son and grandson of people who have worked at Heathrow over the last 35 years. I am one of many thousands of people from the Southall area who have a similar experience, having been brought up knowing that we have this magnet for attracting inward investment and employment that has been such a benefit to our area. Sometimes we tend to take for granted the very things which make our community strong. Community cohesion is completely undermined when you do not have economic prosperity so I think the opportunities posed by the possible expansion of Heathrow are too huge to ignore.

The vast majority of Southall residents, Southall businesses, Southall faith groups and Southall community-sector organisations are overwhelmingly in support of the expansion of Heathrow. There are negative impacts, but I think there are things which can be done sensibly through discussion and negotiation to mitigate those.”

**JANPAL BASRAN**, Southall Community Alliance

**“Heathrow Airport is a lifeline artery to many families and companies in this area of London.”**

**JOAN**, Northolt Park

**“I am very disappointed with my fellow citizens who wish to run-down Heathrow. The management are not idiots; they have made a wonderful job of the airport.”**

**CHARLES**, Hayes

**“We are an aviation family. My husband and daughter work at Heathrow. Heathrow needs expansion to keep growing with world industry and to keep the future for our children and their children bright.”**

**USHA**, Uxbridge

# LOCAL BUSINESSES SAY YES TO HEATHROW

**“Heathrow has made a very compelling case for airport expansion, no other case makes economic sense.”**

**DAVID KNOWLES-LEAK,  
Chairman, Thames Valley  
Federation of Small  
Businesses**

**“The Hounslow Chamber of Commerce is right behind the Back Heathrow campaign. In our survey of local firms, 77% who responded were in favour of expanding Heathrow and some 55% were only located here because of the UK’s hub airport.”**

**STEPHEN FRY,  
Chief Executive, Hounslow  
Chamber of Commerce**

“ Everybody in this area benefits from the airport whether it be a local greengrocer or a big company. Where I was born in Feltham, everybody worked at the airport whether they worked for a cleaning company, a catering company, a transport company or for one of the airlines. It means so much for the local economy. ”

NEIL MARTIN, Manager at Parker Car Service, Isleworth

“ I live here and my business is here and we rely on the airport, and the people that work there for our business. I believe that if Heathrow doesn’t expand then everyone loses either directly with jobs at the airport or indirectly like businesses like mine. I think as long as Heathrow is allowed to expand and progress, it has a secure future, especially for those who work in it when their jobs are a lot safer. ”

JASWANT DHILLON, Owner of Sadda Stores, Bath Road

“ Heathrow is very important to National Express. Around a third of all our journeys are to or from an airport and Heathrow is the busiest airport in the UK. We take millions of people from towns and cities to and from Heathrow. It’s a big employer for us with 50 staff based at the airport and a further 150 drivers and all of them live locally. It’s important to us that Heathrow continues to flourish. ”

MATT GOGGINS, Head of Public Affairs, National Express, Heathrow

“ The proximity to a hub airport at Heathrow is of critical importance to Thames Valley businesses. The airport acts as a gateway to new and emerging markets of the world. The ‘western wedge’ area to the west of London is a fiercely competitive global market and the need to facilitate more and better aviation links from an expanded Heathrow is absolutely crucial for keeping us well- connected, as well as ensuring that we secure reductions in the operational impact of Heathrow now, and for the foreseeable future. ”

STEVE LAMB, Chair, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP

“ We wanted to support the Back Heathrow campaign by sending a visible message to politicians that Heathrow’s future affects people like the 70 employees working for our company. There are hundreds of thousands of jobs in the region that depend on Heathrow and that is a serious number of people to brush aside in this debate. I think it’s essential that Heathrow remains a hub airport and expands to enable companies like ours to grow rather than decline. ”

ALAN SMITH, Founder, Mixed Freight Services, Feltham



“ West London Business fully supports the Back Heathrow campaign. The negative impact of Heathrow’s decline on such a successful business region as west London would be disastrous. Expanding the UK’s hub airport at Heathrow is the most logical, affordable and practical solution to help sustain the economic well-being of west London and the UK economy.”  
**FRANK WINGATE, Chief Executive of West London Business**

“ As a resident and small business owner I totally support the expansion of Heathrow. I am staggered that there are still meetings I attend that hold residents whose businesses have benefited from the growth this area has experienced, and yet oppose its continued expansion.”  
**AMANDA GEE, President of Windsor District Chamber of Commerce**

“ The Heathrow Hoteliers Association appreciates the economic benefits that a growing, successful hub airport brings to individual businesses, communities in the local area and the UK.”  
**ANNA-MARIE DOWLING, Chair, Heathrow Hoteliers Assoc**

“ Capacity constraints are eroding Heathrow’s position of dominance and threaten the UK’s position as a key destination for air freight.”  
**DANNY PEDRI, Managing Director, DHL Express**

“ Jobs are more important than things like noise for me. The airport is busier now but I believe that noise has stayed the same; we get more noise from the traffic than anything around here. The car park next to my shop used to be empty but look at it now - that’s the effect of Heathrow!”  
**MOHAMMAD ZAFAR, Owner of Total Solutions, Hounslow**

“ Heathrow is the reason we are where we are, along with the rest of the high- tech industry in the Thames Valley.”  
**CHRIS PARKER, Senior Director, Microsoft**

“ Heathrow is essential to our business. It is no coincidence that suppliers to the music industry, as with other sectors such as motor sport, are clustered in the west London area. Heathrow’s multiple daily departures for a huge number of international destinations are crucial to the company meeting the ever tightening time pressure on tour schedules.”  
**JOHN CORR, Tour Principal, Sound Moves (supporting artists including U2, Katy Perry and Lady Ga Ga), Ashford**

**“Unite the Union fully supports the expansion and continued growth of Heathrow as the UK’s hub airport, as it is vital for the economy, the maintenance of decent jobs and the sustainability of local communities. Only growth at Heathrow can connect the UK globally on the scale that is required.”**  
**OLIVER RICHARDSON, National Officer, Unite the Union**

**“The GMB is right behind the expansion of Heathrow as it will secure the future of many thousands of existing jobs and at the same time create a multitude of fantastic new opportunities for future generations.”**  
**PAUL CLARKE, National Lead Organiser, GMB Union**

# POLLING SUPPORT FOR A BIGGER HEATHROW

A new poll by top opinion polling company Populus backs the thousands of local residents who have told us that they want Heathrow to grow.

More people than ever before are supporting the expansion of Heathrow. Alongside the 80,000 local people who have signed up to Back Heathrow, the new poll shows that those in favour of growth significantly outweigh those against.

Nearly 10,000 people were polled in 10 areas neighbouring the airport and

the results are dramatic – 60% of those expressing a view now support growth with just 40% opposed. Nine out of the 10 areas polled had more local people supporting expansion than opposing it. Slough had the highest level of support whilst only Twickenham had more residents who opposed expansion than supported it. All other areas saw many more people supporting than opposing expansion.

These are significant figures and show clearly that momentum is growing for those who want Heathrow to continue

operating and succeeding as the UK’s hub airport.

In many areas the polling shows that local people are ahead of the politicians on this major issue. Back Heathrow believes it’s time that politicians woke up to the reality of their residents wanting a thriving Heathrow for now and beyond, with more jobs, better prospects and a brighter future being available for all.

We think politicians should Back Heathrow – and this polling shows them why. ■

	Slough	Feltham & Heston	Hayes & Harlington	Spelthorne	Ealing Central & Acton	Brentford & Isleworth	Uxbridge & South Ruislip	Windsor	Richmond Park	Twickenham
<b>Support expansion</b>	62%	57%	56%	53%	53%	52%	47%	43%	42%	38%
<b>Against expansion</b>	21%	29%	28%	29%	28%	34%	32%	40%	41%	49%
<b>Neutral</b>	17%	14%	16%	18%	19%	14%	21%	17%	17%	13%

## FLYING HIGH: WHY MANY RESIDENTS LOVE HEATHROW

New evidence has revealed just how much people living in the communities around Heathrow rely on the UK’s hub airport for business and pleasure.

In fact, some of Heathrow’s critics like Boris Johnson, Twickenham MP Vince Cable and Richmond Park MP Zac Goldsmith represent areas that use Heathrow most out of the entire UK. Whatever they may say, their residents are rushing to the departure gates – and no wonder as 82 airlines use Heathrow and carry 73 million passengers a year.

The figures (see right) came from the latest annual Civil Aviation Authority Passenger Survey and show the numbers of passengers departing from each local borough in a given year, providing huge knock-on benefits to local communities. ■

Local Authority Area	UK Resident Pax	Total Passenger Numbers	UK Rank
City of Westminster	4,091,194	5,124,838	1
Kensington and Chelsea	1,588,551	2,188,757	2
Camden	1,042,165	1,509,569	3
Tower Hamlets	530,915	881,394	4
Ealing	277,690	812,118	5
Hounslow	421,358	810,660	6
Richmond upon Thames	316,542	786,920	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	352,161	757,602	9
Hillingdon	386,132	750,383	10
Wandsworth	194,482	673,472	11



**Thank you for letting us have our say!**



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