

Valerie Shawcross AM

London Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark

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Sir Peter Hendy
Commissioner
Transport for London
Floor 14, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

Dear Peter

In April this year the Mayor signed Mayoral Decision MD1334 authorising TfL to undertake further work drawing up plans for a new airport in the Thames Estuary. This Mayoral Decision bought the total budget for work on this project up to £5.2m.

On Tuesday, after exhaustive consultation and analysis, the Airports Commission, which was set up by the Government to make recommendations for London airport expansion, ruled the Estuary Airport proposal out of its list of options for final consideration.

In response, instead of accepting the widespread views of aviation, financial and environmental experts, the Mayor has stated that he intends to continue fighting for the proposal.

In light of the Airports Commission's ruling, and the significant amount already spent by the Mayor on this proposal, I believe it would be totally inappropriate for more public money to be wasted on developing an idea which has neither support nor any realistic chance of implementation.

I strongly believe that expenditure of further public funds on the Thames Estuary proposal would be deeply wasteful and a wholly inappropriate use of taxpayer money. The Airports Commission ruling on Tuesday means that any further taxpayer expenditure would represent little more than political posturing exercise, one which I believe the tax payer has already paid dearly for.

I call upon you to confirm that you will not sanction any further public spending in support of proposals for a Thames Estuary airport, and to commit to returning any unspent funding from the £5.2m allocation to TfL's general budget so it can be spent on tangible schemes that matter to Londoners, such as the tube upgrade, and not on fantasy projects that clearly have no future.

Yours sincerely,



Valerie Shawcross AM
London Assembly, Lambeth & Southwark