

Airport expansion – tips for writing to your MP

This document provides some advice for asking your MP to sign **Early Day Motion (EDM) 572** in support of the **Frequent Flyer Levy campaign** – as an alternative to the Government's plans to build a third runway at Heathrow. You can email your MP easily at www.theyworkforyou.com.

Tips for writing to your MP:

1. It's good to tell your MP, in your own words, why you oppose a third runway at Heathrow and why you'd like them to support a frequent flyer levy instead.
2. Include a link to EDM 572 or the full text, which is copied below or available online (along with current signatories) at www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/572.
3. You could provide a link to the campaign for a frequent flyer levy too: www.afreeride.org and/or what you think are the most powerful statistics or information put forward.
4. It's completely fine for your email to be short; you don't need to set out all of the arguments against airport expansion and in favour of the frequent flyer levy (there are many!).
5. Be polite and ask your MP to write back and let you know if they've signed the EDM, whether they support the frequent flyer levy proposal, and whether they will represent your views by opposing airport expansion at Heathrow or elsewhere.

Early day motion 572

FREQUENT FLYER LEVY CAMPAIGN

Primary sponsor: Lucas, Caroline

Date tabled: 19.10.2016

This House notes that the Government's commitment to limit aviation emissions in 2050 to no higher than 2005 levels and that, according to Department for Transport's analysis, growth in demand for aviation means that the UK is already set to exceed this target by 25 per cent; believes that expansion at either Heathrow or Gatwick Airport is incompatible with the UK's national and international climate obligations; further notes that air travel currently benefits from a highly favourable subsidies regime in the UK, with exemptions from VAT and fuel duty, while the current system of Air Passenger Duty has been ineffective in reducing demand for flights; notes that an estimated 70 per cent of all flights in 2013 were taken by just 15 per cent of the population, with 57 per cent of the population taking no flights abroad; supports the campaign for a new Frequent Flyer Levy, allowing individuals to make one tax free return flight per year and thereafter to be charged at a steadily increasing rate for each successive flight taken in that year; further believes this would be a socially progressive way to limit the environmental impact of aviation in line with official targets; and calls on the Government to introduce such a levy to obviate the need for any new runway capacity and invest the funds raised in further measures to reduce air travel.