



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

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20 / 11

16 November 1990

Dear Cecil,

WORKING GROUP ON RUNWAY CAPACITY TO SERVE THE SOUTH EAST

I have seen a copy of Kenneth Baker's letter of ^{*14*} November to Peter Lilley, following on Peter's letter to you of ^{*14*} November on the above subject.

I am afraid that I have to add my "two bits" to this correspondence as a Sussex Member who has for long campaigned against the second runway at Gatwick.

I very strongly endorse Kenneth Baker's comment that the locals, no matter on which side of Gatwick Airport they live, believe emphatically that there is no possibility whatsoever of a second runway happening. Moreover, since the previous commitments made in writing by Michael Spicer when he was at the Department of Transport and our 1985 White Paper, the locals would believe, with very good reason, that we were going back on our word if the option of a second runway at Gatwick was now formally reopened.

We would, I believe, be very hard put to defend such a decision, not only to our constituents but also to the West Sussex County Council who only gave approval to the second terminal at Gatwick on the firm understanding that they would not agree to any proposal for the expansion of the airport until, I believe, the year 2019.

I am copying this letter to recipients of Kenneth's letter of 14 November.

*Yours
True*

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State of Transport
Department of Transport
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

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