



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Campaigners deliver eco 'welcome pack' to new airport boss**

Campaigners from the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group will today greet BIA's new boss Paul Kehoe by presenting him with a 'Welcome Pack' designed to highlight the campaign's environmental concerns.

The pack contains:

- **Membership of Friends of the Earth** – a gift of one year's support for FoE. As A FoE member, Mr Kehoe will receive regular updates and information about the organisation's campaigns, such as how it is working to prevent catastrophic climate change.
- **Membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England** – gift membership for one year. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England. Its campaigns to safeguard the countryside include fighting to protect green belt land from development.
- DVD of '**An Inconvenient Truth**' – former US Vice President Al Gore's eye-opening documentary that shows why and how we must act now to stop climate change. This has been included with the hope that it will be shown to all airport staff.
- **European train timetable** – to demonstrate the extent of the European network and to show that train travel provides a viable alternative to short haul flights.
- **Executive summary of the Stern Report**. The report issues a clear warning that climate change could cost the global economy up to £3.68 trillion, unless drastic action is taken and explains how taking action now would cost just 1% of global gross domestic product.

The aim of the pack, say SBAE, is to provide essential information on climate change, which campaigners hope will be useful to the airport's management and will be passed on to the airport's Australian owners. That climate change has now reached the heart of the debate on aviation expansion was demonstrated last week at the opening of the Stansted public enquiry.

The group also argues that flights from Bristol Airport are already impacting on the quality of life for communities close to the airport who are paying the price with increased traffic congestion, and light and air pollution.

SBAE campaigner Hilary Burn said: "If Mr Kehoe is really serious about delivering value back into the community, as he stated last week in the local press, he must consider local concerns when developing the airport's growth plans. He could achieve this within the airport's current capacity by overturning the ratio between business and leisure passengers.

The percentage of leisure passengers is currently 80% compared to 20% of business passengers.

Another SBAE spokesperson Georgie Bigg said: “The landscape of the Chew Valley and Wrington Vale, close to the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is treasured not only by the people who live here, but is also enjoyed and used recreationally by those who live in Bristol and Weston and even further away.

“Expansion of the airport will impact severely on this countryside resulting in local people needing to travel further afield in pursuit of tranquillity.

Jeremy Birch also speaking for SBAE said:: "It is crucial we to act now to protect the environment and also to avoid economic catastrophe as a consequence of climate change. While emissions in all sectors of the economy need to be addressed, aviation is the fastest growing source of CO2 emissions, which when released at high altitudes have at least twice the impact of emissions produced at ground level. Producing these massive amounts of extra emissions, as will happen if we continue to put more planes in the air, is not a viable option.

“The organisations and communities represented by SBAE all share in a vision of the future for the South West that sees a thriving local economy and a place that people want to live in and visit for many generations to come. However, we believe the airport’s current plans for development will not deliver the best options for the area or the planet

**ENDS**

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For further information on SBAE, visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)