



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **We'll still be fighting for residents' concerns following judge's disappointing decision on airport say campaigners**

Campaigners fighting the expansion of Bristol Airport say they are disappointed and surprised by a high court judge's decision to refuse a judicial review into the planning permission granted last year by North Somerset Council that will allow the airport's massive expansion plans to go ahead – but will be continuing their scrutiny of the airport's plans to ensure that the 70 conditions attached to the planning permission are fully met.

Judge Mr Justice Collins today turned down Stop Bristol Airport Expansion's (SBAE) application for a judicial review into the May 2010 decision by North Somerset Council to allow the airport to add an extra four million to its passenger numbers.

SBAE said the judge's decision was surprising since there is compelling evidence that the 2008 Climate Change Act was not given enough weight when Bristol Airport was given the go ahead for a massive rise in passenger numbers. The Government itself has condemned Labour's 2003 Air Transport White Paper, on which Bristol airport's expansion is based, as fundamentally flawed in giving too little weight to climate change and local environmental impacts including noise. [1]

"This is a disappointing and quite frankly surprising decision from the judge," said SBAE spokesman Jeremy Birch. "It is has never been more crucial to do everything we can to reduce carbon emissions – yet the planned increase in flights will produce more carbon emissions than all the traffic in Bristol.

"SBAE will continue our vigilance to ensure that every one of the 70 conditions attached to the airport's planning permission from North Somerset Council is properly fulfilled. We have always said we will fight to the end of the road to support local residents and the environment. Local communities will now have to endure yet more traffic congestion, pollution and noise.

"The airport has argued that it is urgent that it expands, yet passengers this year are significantly down on 2008 and likely to remain so for several years. There is no hurry for a bigger airport – and in reality the recent air passenger forecast from the Department of Transport predicts that Bristol Airport's passengers are not likely to rise beyond six million by 2020, the date the airport has forecast for a rise to ten million passengers."

SBAE are objecting to Bristol airport's plans to increase passenger numbers from six to ten million by 2020 because this will lead to serious negative impacts for local communities, such as increased traffic congestion on country roads and noise pollution, plus a massive rise in carbon emissions from flights. The group has been fighting Bristol airport's expansion plans since 2005. No major expansion has so far taken place.

**ENDS**

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

### **Notes**

[1] Scoping document 'Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation' available at the Department for Transport's website: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

[2] UK revised aviation forecasts 2011 from the Department of Transport can be found at [www.TransportXtra.com/reports](http://www.TransportXtra.com/reports) and <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/uk->

