



Department  
for Transport

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

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Plan B. Earth  
62 Sutherland Square  
London  
SE17 3EL

Dear Mr Crosland

**Response to request for review of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) from Plan B Earth**

This is a response to your letter of 2 May addressed to the Government Legal Department, titled "Request for a review of the ANPS under section 6 of the Planning Act".

I acknowledge receipt of your request to carry out a review of the Airports National Policy Statement ("the ANPS") under section 6 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act").

I can confirm that the department will carefully consider this request against the statutory criteria set out in section 6(3) and (4) of the Act.

As well as giving careful consideration to the *Net Zero* report and the declaration of environment and climate emergency, mentioned in the request, it may be necessary to consider the Committee on Climate Change's recommended policy approach for aviation which, the Committee has stated at Chapter 6 of the report, will be provided to the department later in 2019 and any relevant decisions taken by the government in the coming months as a result. These decisions are likely to include decisions on relevant policy being developed as part of *Aviation 2050: The future of UK aviation*, which is currently the subject of consultation.

At the end of this consideration, the department will provide advice and a recommendation to the Secretary of State, to enable him to take a decision on whether the statutory criteria for a review of part or all of the ANPS are met, and whether or not it is appropriate to carry out such a review. I can confirm that I or one of my colleagues will write to you to let you know the decision once it is made.

I trust that this explanation is helpful to you in considering whether it is appropriate, and a sensible use of funds, to proceed with an application for permission to appeal against the judgment of the Divisional Court.

Yours sincerely,

**Caroline Low**

Director, Heathrow Expansion & Aviation and Maritime Analysis