



Department
for Transport

Councillor Mrs Nicola Linacre
Town Mayor
Harpenden Town Council
Town Hall
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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

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- 8 FEB 2013

Dear Councillor Linacre

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2013, about the planning application for Luton Airport's proposed expansion.

The promotion of increased passenger numbers within an airport's existing boundary is a matter for the airport operator and/or owner. However where planning approval is required to support such increases in passenger numbers, for example to develop infrastructure, this will be subject to the normal planning process. The future use of Luton Airport will therefore be for Luton Borough Council to determine, as the local planning authority

As I am sure you know, the airport operator will have been required to submit an Environmental Statement (ES) alongside their planning application that establishes the environmental, economic and transport impacts of the proposals and, where necessary, identifies measures that could mitigate or reduce these impacts.

I would like to reassure you that any decision the Council takes on the application, by necessity, would need to take into account a wide range of local and national policies. However, as you note in your letter, it is also open to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to 'call-in' planning applications for determination rather than letting the local authorities decide if, for example, they conflict with national policies on important matters. The decision on whether to call-in a planning application for determination by the Secretary of State is made having regard to published policy.

*y- sincerely
Patrick McLoughlin*

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN