



LONDON LUTON
AIRPORT

Councillor Mrs Nicola Linacre
Town Mayor
Harpenden Town Council
Town Hall
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Herts
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22nd January 2013

Dear Councillor Linacre,

I refer to your letter of 17 January in connection with the M1 Junction 10A Scheme and our recent planning application for works to facilitate the growth of Luton Airport.

In connection with our application, you have referred to a 'near doubling' of passenger volumes at the airport. The current capacity of the Airport's infrastructure is at least 12.4 million passengers a year (mppa). The proposed works would accommodate up to 18 mppa which is a 45% increase, not a doubling, but, in any case, the Government's threshold for an airport related development to constitute a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is:

'Extensions will need to increase airport capacity by at least 10 million passengers per year or 10,000 movements of cargo'.

The potential increase of some 5.6 mppa is clearly well within this threshold (and for the avoidance of doubt, no significant increase in cargo movements is planned, nor are the proposed improvement works specifically to facilitate any change in the level of cargo activity at the airport).

The position in respect of Junction 10A is that this is a NSIP as the Government currently specifies that in respect of highways projects, those qualifying schemes are:

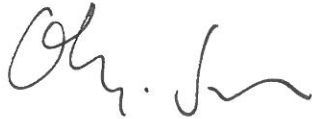
'In England; trunk roads and motorways where the Secretary of State is or will be the *highways authority*'

The Highways Agency jurisdiction for the M1 includes the spur road and the existing roundabout.

The Government is currently consulting on proposals that could, in future, exclude relatively small motorway related projects, such as the Junction 10A improvements, from the NSIP regime.

Therefore, in both cases the applications have been made in accordance with the Government's clear procedural rules. Our application was correctly submitted to Luton Borough Council and I am confident that as a competent planning authority the Borough Council will handle it in a highly professional manner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

Glyn Jones
Managing Director

Cc

Ian Gamble, Director of National Infrastructure, the Planning Inspectorate
Councillor Teresa Heritage, St Albans District Council
Councillor Richard Thake, Hertfordshire County Council
Mr Peter Lilley MP