



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Keir Mather MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

23 February 2026

Paul Britton
Chief Executive
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group
2 Brunel Way
Slough, Berkshire
SL1 1FQ

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 2 February to the Secretary of State about Heathrow Express (HEX) and the Western Rail Link to London Heathrow (WRLtH). I am replying as the Minister for Aviation.

I welcome the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce's (TVCC) support for the expansion of Heathrow Airport and note your views on HEX and WRLtH.

The Secretary of State is aware of the importance of the HEX, which provides an efficient, premium service for over four million passengers every year travelling between central London and Heathrow. Maintaining good connectivity between the airport and the wider rail network is a departmental priority, particularly in the context of our commitment to building a third runway. The Government shares your interest in strong airport connectivity.

As you may be aware, the plans put forward by Heathrow Airport Limited are informing the Government's ongoing review of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS).

As part of the ANPS review, launched on 22 October 2025, we will consider the transport infrastructure required to support a third runway, including rail connectivity and mode share targets. This will include considering the impacts for travellers from different regions. We are aware that western rail access plans to Heathrow were well-developed and supported previously. However, given the time that has passed, it is right that the ANPS review should consider what has changed in terms of service proposition, new infrastructure and passenger demands.

While I will not pre-empt the outcome of the ANPS review, any expansion promoter will be responsible for setting out a surface access strategy demonstrating how they will meet the requirements outlined in the ANPS.

I am aware that my officials have been engaging with TVCC to discuss the business case for WRLtH. I encourage that engagement to continue.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keir Mather". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

KEIR MATHER MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND DECARBONISATION