

Press release for immediate use.
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Transport stakeholders urge faster action to clean up Heathrow's local environment

Today Val Shawcross CBE, the Independent Chair of the Heathrow Area Transport Forum, has written to the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps MP to urge the Government to make faster progress on reducing polluting vehicles accessing Heathrow Airport.

Val Shawcross said "In an era of Climate Change emergency and heightened public concern about traffic generated air pollution, it makes no sense for so many passengers and airport staff to be travelling to and from the airport in polluting vehicles. There are well researched plans and proposals for new and improved rail schemes to the airport which enjoy popular support, yet the current focus on keeping airport users' cost down means that there has been inadequate private and public investment so far. I have written to the Secretary of State to particularly express frustration about the lack of progress on the Western Rail Link proposal. There is universal support for this vital rail schemes and yet it seems bogged down with delays and indecision."

A copy of the letter sent to the Secretary of State is attached.

Val Shawcross is available for interview.

About Heathrow Area Transport Forum

HATF is established under DfT Guidance and made up of key stakeholders with an interest and involvement in surface transport issues as they relate to Heathrow Airport and the surrounding area and sub region. HATF is tasked with engaging with Heathrow and key partners to promote the improvement of surface transport to and from the airport, to support achievement of National Policy Statement targets for Heathrow - most notably the target for modal shift away from private car usage, and to monitor the delivery of Heathrow's surface access strategy.

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