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## **Runway congestion at Heathrow increases delays for passengers**

Delays for passengers flying into Heathrow Airport are increasing, thanks to congestion on its two runways.

Figures released today by the Civil Aviation Authority show that the average delay on an arriving flight at Heathrow is now 20 minutes, a 25% increase from 2003. In comparison, average delays at Amsterdam and Paris Charles de Gaulle are less than 15 minutes, despite having more flights than Heathrow.

**Lord Soley, Future Heathrow's Campaign Director said:**

*"Heathrow's two runways are currently operating at 99% of their permitted capacity and this is leading to unnecessary delays for passengers. Both Amsterdam and Paris have more flights than Heathrow but fewer delays thanks to the spare capacity provided by their extra runways."*

*"These figures show that additional capacity at Heathrow is needed now, if the UK is to maintain its competitive edge."*

Today, Heathrow has two runways operating at 99% of their permitted capacity. By comparison, Frankfurt has three runways, Paris CDG has four, Amsterdam has five, and all operate at less than 75% of their capacity. The number of destinations served by Heathrow has fallen from 227 in 1990 to 180 today. Over the same period Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam have all increased their destinations significantly and can offer new slots to emerging economies. The number of British regional airports served from Heathrow has fallen from 21 to 8 over the same

period. But Heathrow's loss has been the continent's gain. Amsterdam and Paris now serve more British regional airports than Heathrow.

**Notes to editors:**

1. For further information contact Lord Clive Soley on 07785 250456
2. Members of Future Heathrow include Amicus, ATAG, BAA, BALPA, BAR UK, BATA, bmi, British Airways, Boeing UK, CBI, Destination Heathrow, GMB, IATA, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Airline Operators Committee (Heathrow), London First, Thames Valley Economic Partnership, TUC, TGWU, Virgin Atlantic Airways, and West London Business.