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Heathrow's determination to expand

There is probably nothing I can add to the detailed analysis submitted by the No3rdRunway Coalition about Heathrow's flawed plans to expand this ill-sited airport. I write simply as a resident who bought this house in Putney in 1981 when incessant, loud aircraft noise was not the issue it is now. Had I known how it would develop and how Heathrow would renege on every undertaking it has made to limit expansion (e.g. T5 inquiry) I would have made a life elsewhere.

There are too many negatives in this ill thought out plan for it to proceed. I am not a civil engineer, but does Heathrow seriously imagine it will divert five rivers, 12 lanes of the M25, the Lakeland waste disposal plant, BT's communications centre in addition to laying the tarmac for the runway itself and building yet another terminal for £14bn? Refurbishing the Palace of Westminster is scheduled to cost £5bn, so the Heathrow plan looks cheap for the price. And where will the money come from? Me, the taxpayer?

How likely is it that . Heathrow's owners, foreign wealth funds, will stump up the cash? Many are located in countries not renowned for their concern for human rights and their own citizens' quality of life. Why should they care about ours?

One, Qatar, allegedly did not pay Carillion for work done and this omission apparently contributed to Carillion's bankruptcy. If this is true, why should I believe that Qatar will stump up its share?

Will Ferrovia, the China Investment Fund (and let's not forget the extent of Chinese corporate indebtedness) or Caisse de dépôt et placement de Québec be willing to hand over the wherewithall? Somehow I doubt it. They are in it to make money, not hand it out.

As for the Universities Superannuation Scheme, this is not exactly flush with cash, last time I heard. Are they going to pay up?

As things stand, if this expansion is allowed to proceed, it looks as if I will be forced, through my taxes, to pay for the further destruction of my quality of life and I deeply resent this prospect.

Elizabeth Balsom

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