



Step 3

Tell your MP about it

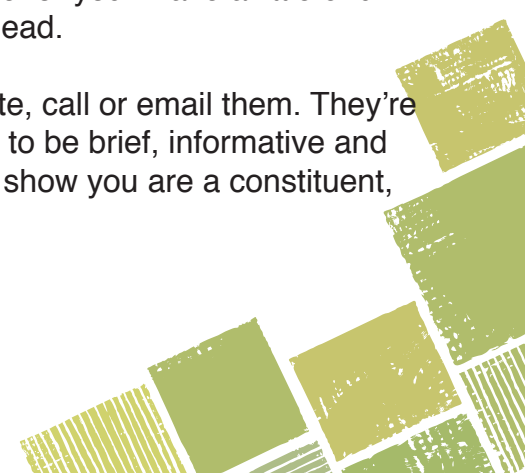
Whatever you get your group to do, it's really important that your MP gets to hear about it.

Even if they have already come out in support of Airplot and against expanding airports, you should still let them know what you're up to – it will reassure them that their constituents support their stance.

If members of your group have different MPs, contact them all!

Here are some tips to help contact with your MP go well:

- You probably already know who your MP is, but if you need a reminder go to <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/> and enter your postcode.
- Do a little research into what your MP has said or done about Heathrow and other airports in the past. Again, <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/search> is an excellent source of information on MP's doings and leanings.
- Heathrow is a national issue but it's helpful to give it a local angle, even if you live nowhere near the south east, as this will really help it chime with your MP. Explain the impact Heathrow will have on climate change, and how climate change will affect your area or even your group. For instance, if you're a group of allotment holders, how will climate change affect your crops? Or does increased flooding threaten your neighbourhood? Is there an airport expansion planned in your area?
- Whatever your event or idea, make sure you get some evidence to show your MP. Photos and videos are great, or if you've made something (a cake, maybe?) make a delivery to your MP's next constituency surgery.
- If you meet your MP, have a few key facts and figures ready at your fingertips - the **Top 10 Facts about Airport Expansion** section of this toolkit has some for you. Make a little crib sheet so you don't have to remember them off the top of your head.
- If you can't meet your MP for whatever reason, you can still write, call or email them. They're busy people who deal with hundreds of letters every day, so try to be brief, informative and relevant. If you're writing, remember to include your address to show you are a constituent, even in an email.





Be very clear about what we're asking MPs to do, which is:

1. Oppose plans for a third runway;
2. Support investment in sustainable transport networks;
3. Join our campaign and become an Airplotter.

- Try to get a clear commitment of what they are going to do, write it down and keep a record of what they agreed.
- If they agree with everything, fantastic! If not, don't take 'no' for an answer. Follow up with a letter or a phone call, or think of something even more daring and delicious to catch their attention.
- Even if your MP doesn't agree to your requests, be polite and courteous. Building a good relationship with your MP now will help with future campaigning.
- If you get any coverage in the local media, let your MP know. Send them press clippings (us too, please) or tell them you were interviewed on the radio.
- Above all, remember that it's well worth lobbying your MP. Our experience is that it's often letters and emails from constituents that make the vital difference in getting an MP to take up an issue for Greenpeace. When our supporters are doing this in constituencies across the country, it can push an issue right up the political agenda.