

Ms Sarah Perring
Airports Commission Secretariat
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

19 November 2013

Dear Ms Perring

## OPERATIONAL FREEDOMS TRIAL AT HEATHROW AIRPORT

On 18 October we sent you a report (CAP 1117) containing our independent analysis on the conduct and effects of the Heathrow Operational Freedoms trial. Our report supplemented the more detailed Final Report on the trial by Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) itself. Both reports were also published the same day.

During the course of the trial, HAL also published interim reports, including one on Phase 1 (published April 2012) and one on the first half of Phase 2 (summer season, July to October 2012, published January 2013). These included some consideration of the effect of the trialled freedoms on local air quality through changes in holding point delay and aircraft taxiing times.

It has been pointed out to us that HAL's Final Report omits any further analysis of the effects of the trial on local air quality. When we raised this with them, HAL explained that this analysis would add very little information and that HAL no longer has the resources to carry out any further analysis retrospectively since the project team has been stood down. HAL therefore does not see any merit in carrying out further work on the impact of the freedoms on air quality at this time.

I am therefore drawing this omission to the Commission's attention, as it may not be immediately apparent given the complexity of the analysis in these reports.

I am copying this letter to Tim Hardy at HAL and Patricia Hayes at the Department for Transport.

Yours sincerely

**lain Osborne** 

**Group Director, Regulatory Policy**