



Filton Airfield

Thank you for your letter of 24 September to the Prime Minister about Filton airfield. Your letter has been passed to this Department and I have been asked to reply.

It is fully appreciated that BAE Systems' announcement that Filton Airfield is to close in 2012 has been a matter of regret and concern to individuals and businesses in and around Bristol. Ultimately, however, this has been a decision by the airfield's operator based on its assessment of the airfield's continuing commercial and economic viability.

Decisions on the future use of the airfield are a commercial matter for the operator and landowner; although any proposal for development would be subject to the normal local planning process. In determining any planning applications the local planning authority will, by necessity, take into account all relevant local and national policies.

Yours sincerely



I fully appreciate that BAE Systems' announcement in April that Filton Airfield is to close in 2012 has been a matter of great regret and concern for the people and business community in and around Bristol. Ultimately, however, this has been a decision by the airfield's operator, based on its assessment of the airfield's commercial and economic viability.

Any decisions about the continued use of Filton Airfield for aviation purposes after 2012 will be commercial ones for the operator and landowner, and will be subject to the normal local planning process.

I hope that this information is helpful.

*Regards
Theresa*

THE RT. HON. THERESA VILLIERS