

# Evening Standard Letter

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THE operational flexibility provided by mixed mode is a useful stop-gap measure that would reduce delays, improve the Heathrow passenger experience, reduce emissions from aircraft queuing on the ground and in the air, while at the same time creating an opportunity for some limited extra capacity. In no way does it replace the need for a third runway.

An absolute maximum of 60,000 extra flights could be provided by implementing mixed mode, as shown in last year's consultation document. To suggest a greater figure, as anti-expansion campaigners have, is technically unfeasible. By contrast, a third runway would provide the capacity for more than 200,000 extra aircraft movements, additional capacity that is needed to ensure the country maintains a thriving and competitive international transport hub.

Once the third runway is built and in operation, there will be no further need for the increased flexibility mixed mode offers and it can cease.

Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General, British Air Transport Association.