



Department
for International
Development

Prime Ministers Office

2 JUN 2016

Constituency



Opened and Checked

Rt Hon Desmond Swayne TD MP
Minister of State

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

26 May 2016

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 11 May to Justine Greening (ref: DC/eq/H), enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Brian Heywood of [REDACTED] regarding the viability of the St Helena Airport project. I am replying as Minister who leads on the issues raised.

Given its remoteness, providing air access to St Helena was always recognised as a challenge; which is why the decision to build an airport was taken after many years of feasibility work. As your constituent points out, the identification of wind shear on the northern approach to the runway has presented an additional challenge; one which we need to address before scheduled air services can commence.

I can assure you that we are taking this issue very seriously and undertaking detailed work – with the help of others, including the UK Meteorological Office – to understand fully the nature of the problem, and to identify an appropriate solution.

We remain hopeful that the work being undertaken will allow the commencement of scheduled services at the airport in the near future. As noted by your constituent, wind shear is experienced at many other airports around the world and in those cases does not preclude regular flights.

Yours truly

DESMOND SWAYNE