

[Jonathan Bartley responds to the government's plan to tackle coronavirus](#)



3 March 2020

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“The government’s response to the coronavirus outbreak will require detailed and thorough scrutiny to ensure everything is being done to protect and care for the public.

“This will be a time of colossal change and the government has a duty of care to all those who will be adversely affected, including those who stand to lose out economically for example through increased bills or loss of income.

“As the number of cases escalates, Green councillors will be doing all they can to support their local communities and help them come together to look after the most vulnerable.

“In the Lambeth ward I represent, like Green councillors up and down the country, I will be working with colleagues to ensure the local authority is in a position to keep vital services running, as best they can. Government must also play its part in ensuring that local communities are empowered and supported to do so.”

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[Caroline Russell responds to Court of Appeal decision on Heathrow third runway](#)



27 February 2020

Green Party transport spokesperson Caroline Russell, who was at the court for the ruling, said:

“This decision shows business as usual has no place in a climate emergency. Of course we cannot expand aviation in the middle of a climate crisis.

“We are pleased the courts have upheld the will of Parliament on the need to tackle the climate emergency.

“It’s fantastic this is the first time in the world the Paris Agreement has been used as the basis for a ruling.

“We hope it opens the door for more challenges to allow the people to take power back from big business and protect our planet.

“Greens across the country will continue to fight off expansion at airports across the country.”

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[The climate emergency is not going away: Amelia Womack on the need for long term action on flooding](#)



25 February 2020

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack said:

Just because the floodwaters will eventually go down doesn’t mean that the climate emergency is going away. We can’t only focus on floods when there’s a photo opportunity for a politician who has never used a mop in their life. This demands serious, long term action.

We can keep pouring concrete and building barriers, but the water will always find a way over as extreme weather gets worse and worse. What we need is better land management in the uplands, rewilding our countryside to make our environment more absorbent and resilient.

Above all, we need to decarbonise by 2030, taking real climate action which stops our winters getting wetter and wetter. There’s no doubt about it – this is climate change, and it’s not just at our door, it’s in our living rooms.

Only a Green New Deal can keep us on dry land.

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[Green Party's Caroline Russell responds to new Heathrow third runway report](#)



25 February 2020

The New Economics Foundation has today [Tuesday 25 February] published a new report which shows the Heathrow third runway expansion would introduce an additional 3 to 4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the economy.

Caroline Russell, London Assembly Member and Green Party spokesperson for transport, said:

“This report lays bare the hugely damaging consequences of expansion at Heathrow. Not only would the third runway make it harder to meet our climate commitments but it would also worsen regional economic inequality.

“At a time when the Prime Minister is talking about ‘levelling up’ regions across the UK, this is yet another clear example where the government’s words and actions just do not match up.

“Rather than promoting flying, the dirtiest mode of transport, in one of the most well-connected cities in the world, the government should be investing in green and affordable transport so communities across the country have clean, safe and convenient options for their journeys.”

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[Green Party peer Natalie Bennett responds to government's post-Brexit immigration plans](#)



19 February 2020

Responding to the government's proposals for its post-Brexit immigration plan, Green Party peer Natalie Bennett said:

"The UK has always been a country of immigrants and emigrants. This short-sighted and damaging proposal closes the door on both groups, for many countries will surely respond with similar restrictions on Britons. Immigrants contribute so much to our country's prosperity and cultural and community life, we will all be the poorer under these plans.

"Whether it's caring for us in hospital or providing day to day services we all rely on, migrants have played a huge role in making the UK a richer and more interesting country for all.

"Many traditional large and small business backers of the Tory Party are opposed to this move, and it is clear this is dog-whistle politics, playing to populist, discriminatory agendas.

"Instead of demonising migrants we should be recognising the immense contribution they make to this country and continue the free movement for EU citizens – with the corresponding rights for UK citizens across Europe. Young people should not have fewer freedoms and opportunities than their parents had."

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