



Stop
Bristol Airport
Expansion

FACT SHEET 2: AIR QUALITY around Bristol Airport

(v: 26.08.19)

The Fact Sheets are intended as a reference for issues raised by the threatened expansion of Bristol Airport and updated regularly. Comment and suggestions welcome. Contact: STOPBAex@gmail.com (subject line: attn LT)

1. The incidence of **asthma and respiratory diseases is 17% higher among those living within 6.2 miles of a major airport**. Cardiac problems are nine percent more common, with the elderly and very young particularly at risk.
2. When aircraft land under great force, there is **huge black particle emission from their tyres** and road surface dust is created. Many passengers are exposed to this at Bristol Airport when they walk or are bussed to their planes, as are the airside workforce. This pollution is blown horizontally towards areas of greater population.
3. 'Black articles' from **brake wear, tyre wear and road surface wear** directly contribute to well over half of particle pollution from road transport.
4. **Bristol Airport's Environmental Assessment report** on air has been criticised for **failing to record pollution levels** that would more accurately reflect traffic flow, congestion, aircraft movements and cumulative emission levels. It also makes assumptions about the future over which the Airport has no control.
5. Climate change is pushing the trend towards hotter, drier weather that exacerbates **local pollution**, particularly in the **summer months** when there are **more flights and more road traffic around the Airport**. Government imposed clean air regulations on Bristol and Bath will be unattainable.
6. **Air pollution is so dangerous** that the UK's leading doctors say **polluters must take responsibility for the harm they do to our health**. They recommend when safe air pollution levels are exceeded, local authorities **must have the power to close roads to reduce the volume of traffic, especially near schools**.
7. Growing up in areas with dangerous levels of **air pollution** can leave children with lasting health problems, affecting **lung growth and bringing an increased risk of asthma and pneumonia**.
8. A recent report shows that exposure to air pollution is linked to the **stunting of babies' growth during pregnancy** and associated with later



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conditions including, coronary artery disease, type two diabetes and asthma. The author, paediatrician Professor Steve Turner, said: “Anything that increases air toxicity is putting peoples’ health at risk. **A bigger airport [in Bristol] would mean a greater amount of combustible fuels from planes and cars which would intensify exposure.**”

9 The Royal College of Physicians has reported that ‘each year in the UK, around **40,000 deaths are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution.** It has been linked to **cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes, obesity and changes linked to dementia.**’

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