

Liberal Democrats

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TOXIC FUMES IN AIRCRAFT CABINS PUT STAFF AND PASSENGERS AT RISK – NORMAN BAKER

Lib Dem Shadow Transport Secretary, Norman Baker today called on the government to hold a Public Inquiry into the presence of toxic chemicals on commercial airplanes.

A new report by the Global Cabin Air Quality Executive has found that passengers continue to be exposed to contaminated air, while the government has so far resisted calls for an inquiry.

Norman Baker has today renewed calls for an Inquiry into the problem. Mr Baker also signed an Early Day Motion last year calling for greater research into the issue and for the mandatory use of filtration systems on commercial aircraft.

Commenting, Norman Baker said:

“There is strong evidence that air contamination in certain aircraft can put aircrews and passengers at very serious risks of long-term ill health.

“We have known that these dangers exist for some time, yet the government has ignored calls for a Public Inquiry.

“It cannot continue to flatter commercial interests at the expense of public safety. Nothing less than a full inquiry, taking account all of the international incidents that have occurred and scientific evidence accumulated, will allay public concerns.

“The Government cannot turn its back on this issue while passengers continue to be put at risk of disaster.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

A copy of the Global Cabin Air Quality Executive’s Press Release, calling for a Public Inquiry into aircraft contaminated air, is attached.