



# News Report

## from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the  
West Midlands*

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### **Airport Peep show body-scanners slammed again**

The decision of Manchester Airport to trial new full-body scanners which essentially create a naked picture of air-travellers has been slammed by local Conservative MEP, Philip Bradbourn, who is outraged, viewing the body-scanners as “wholly disproportionate to the threat” posed by terrorism.

The European Commission had previously made the decision to withdraw plans to implement the body-scanners in all UK airports by April 2010 and the decision of Manchester Airport executives to run this trial is baffling given the precedent set by the European Commission.

Responding to the news, Mr Bradbourn said:

**“I am outraged that Manchester Airport executives are trialling technology that is at best Orwellian and at worst actually capable of breaching UK law when used on travellers under the age of 18, as creating an image of a minor is a criminal offence under Protection of Minors legislation. These body-scanners are an invasion of personal privacy and civil liberties which, when considered against the threat that the average passenger poses to security, are hugely disproportionate.**

**I am writing to the Chief Executive of Manchester Airport because I want to know under what authority he has implemented this invasive trial, given that it was previously removed from the Aviation Security Directive by the European Commission. I also want to know if security officers at Manchester Airport are rightly informing air-travellers of their right to opt-out of a full body scan since many of my constituents, especially from Stoke on Trent and the rest of north Staffordshire regularly use Manchester Airport**

**Finally, I am writing to the Chief Executive of Birmingham International Airport to ensure that this unnecessary peep show technology does not enter into trial at our Midlands major international hub in the near future or ever.”**

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Paul Brannon in the UK on 01676 530 621 or Alastair Little in Brussels on 0032 2283 1636