



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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Stewart Wingate  
Chief Executive Officer  
Gatwick Airport Limited  
Destinations Place  
Gatwick Airport  
West Sussex  
RH6 0NP

11 June 2020

Dear Stewart

### **BUILDING GATWICK BACK BETTER**

Your recent press release announced that the airport's opening hours will increase from 15 June and that some airlines will recommence operations on that date.

As this happens, we would like to see noise and other environmental improvements firmly embedded into Gatwick's recovery plans. Communities around Gatwick and under flight paths have seen significant noise and air pollution benefits over recent months. Many people value these greatly and want to see them retained. In short, we would like the airport to build back better, starting immediately.

We are not alone in believing that environmental improvements should form a core part of the country's economic recovery. The Prime Minister said recently "*once we move beyond the emergency phase, we owe it to future generations to build back better and base our recovery on solid foundations, including a fairer, greener and more resilient global economy*". In relation to aviation specifically, the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN) has called for managing noise to be a key priority when aviation levels start to recover.

We recognise that some much-needed improvements in aviation's noise and environmental performance will take time and investment. However, there are a number of actions Gatwick and its airline customers can and, in our view, should take now to help ensure that the impact of additional air traffic is minimised in the short term. In particular we hope you will:

1. Keep the airport closed at night in order to avoid flights that have the greatest community and health impacts
2. Ask airlines to prioritise flying the quietest aircraft in their fleets
3. Put in place incentives that encourage airlines permanently to retire older, noisier and more polluting aircraft
4. Work with your air traffic control partners to disperse aircraft, achieve higher, quicker, departures and adopt noise-minimising arrival procedures to the maximum extent possible, recognising that airspace will be far less congested. These procedures should be consistent with the arrangements and targets discussed extensively with the previous Noise Management Board (NMB) and their achievement should be reported on regularly
5. Reconvene the NMB bodies so they can monitor these measures and consider additional initiatives, in line with ICCAN's advice that engagement should continue during this period.

I suggest that these short-term actions are discussed at the GATCOM Steering group on 25 June and am therefore copying this letter to Tom Crowley as well as to the NMB Chairs.

In due course we would like there to be a fuller process through which all stakeholders can contribute to building back a better, quieter, healthier and cleaner Gatwick.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Barclay  
Chairman

CC:

Tom Crowley, Chair, GATCOM  
Jonathan Drew, Chair, NMB Executive Board  
Warren Morgan, Chair, NMB Community Forum