

GACC NEWSLETTER

Number 123
January 2021

Dear Members

This newsletter is solely about night flights, because the first element of the government's consultation on them closes in just over a month.

The consultation has two parts.

1. By 3 March the Department for Transport is seeking views on its proposals to extend the current night flight restrictions, set in 2017, for an additional two years from October 2022, and to ban the noisiest category of aircraft from operating in the night from October 2022. The latter point isn't significant at Gatwick because virtually none of these aircraft now use the airport.
2. By 31 May it is seeking wider views on its national night flight policy and the structure of night flight restrictions beyond 2024.

GACC strongly disagrees with DfT's proposal to extend current night flight restrictions for an additional two years, for three main reasons.

First, we think it is complacent and irresponsible. Successive governments have acknowledged that noise from aircraft at night has significant health, economic and other impacts on communities near airports and under flight paths, and have asserted that they take this very seriously. But there has been no bottom-up review of the UK's night flight regime since 2006. Instead, the government has repeatedly rolled forward night flight limits set many years ago, without any re-examination of what we believe are the very limited economic benefits, whilst failing to take account of the increasingly strong evidence of the adverse physical and mental health impacts night flights have on communities,

Secondly there is no reason to continue to operate services at night when there is ample capacity at times of day that have less serious health and community impacts. The current reduction in night flights has been widely welcomed in local communities and the government should be taking steps to ensure they are eliminated or reduced very substantially, rather than permitting the airport to reintroduce them at scale when it pleases.

Thirdly, Gatwick communities are unfairly penalised by the current regime. In the summer, when they have greatest impacts, we have nearly 40% more night flights than Stansted and three times the number at Heathrow.

The consultation is [here](#)

Given night noise is considered the most impactful element of Gatwick's operations we would strongly encourage you to respond to the DfT consultation. To that end, GACC has developed both a full and a summary response, which you can access [here](#).

Please feel free to use parts of our response, but it's always best if you use your own words wherever possible.

We will get in touch on the second part of the consultation in due course.

[Joining GACC: please spread the word](#)

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to join GACC and help protect the interests of communities around the airport and under flight paths. Information on how to join is on our website: [Join](#)

The GACC committee.

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