



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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GACC WELCOMES WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO NIGHT FLIGHTS

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) is delighted that responses to the government's consultation show strong and wide opposition to night flights at Gatwick and elsewhere.

GACC's response to the consultation calls on the government to ban all commercial night flights at all UK airports for a full eight hour period each night. It goes on to ask the government to implement a ban as soon as possible and not to extend current restrictions for another two years as currently proposed. If night flights continue to be allowed, GACC argues they should be limited to those that are genuinely essential for economic reasons, not leisure flights, and that they should be far more strictly regulated.

GACC welcomes the call by Gatwick area MPs for the government to look again at night flights and to take more seriously the extensive health costs they impose on local communities.

GACC also welcomes the proposal by GATCOM, the Gatwick statutory consultative committee, that Government should urgently put in place lower night flight limits reflecting current reduced usage and taking advantage of capacity that has now become available during the day.

GACC chairman Peter Barclay said, "*For many years Ministers have said they take the negative effects of night flights very seriously, and then done nothing. There is a strong and growing consensus that it's time for the government to live up to its words and ban all night flights. People's health should be put ahead of cheap holidays and airline profits.*"

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

(1) The Department for Transport was consulting on its proposals to extend the current night flights regime, set in 2017, for an additional two years from October 2022.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-between-2022-and-2024-plus-future-night-flight-policy>

- (2) GACC's response to the night flights consultation can be found on our website:
<http://www.gacc.org.uk/resources/GACC%20response%20to%20night%20flight%20consultation.pdf>
- (3) A letter to the Government from members of the Gatwick Coordination group of MPs is here:
<http://www.gacc.org.uk/resources/Corresponence/Gatwick%20Co-ordination%20Group%20to%20Robert%20Courts,%20DfT%20Night%20Flights%20consultation.pdf>
- (4) GATCOM's initial response to the consultation is here:
http://www.gacc.org.uk/resources/Corresponence/GATCOM%20NightFlights2022-24_response.pdf

For further information contact Sarah Finch on 07870 823485 or email info@gacc.org.uk.

GACC's aims are to protect and improve the environment in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport and to diminish any wider environmental impact of its operations, with particular regard to noise, congestion, air quality, light pollution and climate change.