



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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CAMPAIGNERS DISMAYED BY GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO LIMIT NIGHT FLIGHTS

The Department for Transport has published its decision document on the first part of its recent consultation on night flights at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted.

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) is dismayed that although responses to the consultation showed strong and wide opposition to night flights at Gatwick and elsewhere, the Government has decided to extend current night flight numbers and noise limits for a further three years. DfT's decision is a kick in the teeth for all those negatively affected by the noise and disturbance caused by aircraft noise at night. It entirely ignores the views of local communities and groups representing them.

GACC had called on the government to ban all commercial night flights at all UK airports for a full eight-hour period each night. GACC also argued that if any night flights continued to be allowed, they should be limited to those that were genuinely essential for economic reasons, not leisure flights, and that they should be far more strictly regulated.

GACC chairman Peter Barclay said, *"The Government has used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to avoid making the changes that many respondents to its consultation strongly endorsed. This beggars belief."*

"The pandemic hasn't changed the reality that night flights have severe impacts on people who live near the airport and under flightpaths. They disturb sleep, cause stress and lead to serious health problems."

"The government has committed to building aviation back better. It could and should have seen the recent reduction in flights as an opportunity for positive change. Instead the Department for Transport continues to neglect its regulatory responsibilities and to see its role as serving the interests of the industry, not overflowed communities."

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

(1). The Department Transport's decision document is here:

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

The second part of the consultation - on night flight restrictions post-October 2025 is open for comments until 3 September 2021 and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flights-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-beyond-2024-plus-national-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>

For further information contact Sarah Finch on 07870 823485 or email press@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.