

MAYOR OF LONDON

Mr Colin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer
Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited
The Compass Centre
Nelson Road
Hounslow
Middlesex TW6 2GW

Our ref: MGLA030314-0483

Your ref: 3119/CM/TT/L

Date: 10 MAR 2014

Dear Colin

Thank you for your letter of 25 February in reply to my letter of 12 February.

It is true that there are a range of possible reasons for why the number of people within an airport's noise contour has increased, and that one of these that will be in effect in west London is population growth which is outside of the airport operator's control. But this does not change the fact that an ever increasing number of residents in London are severely affected by aircraft noise resulting from Heathrow's operations. Despite the numbers you quoted in your letter suggesting otherwise, the CAA has published figures in ERCD Reports 0706 and 1204 showing that to be the case: in 2006, the 55dB L_{den} contour encompassed 756,000 people and an area of 244.7 km²; by 2011, this had risen to 766,100 people even though the contour covered a reduced area of 221.9 km².

I appreciate that the planning and development of communities around the airport lies outside of your remit in leading Heathrow Airport, but what these statistics make clear is that the decision on whether and where to expand airport capacity is one which must be considered not with a narrow focus on the aviation industry but with a wider, strategic view that encompasses not just connectivity but spatial planning and the challenges that London will face as it grows to accommodate a further two million people by 2030. I will continue to make my views on this clear to the Airports Commission as I believe these factors should be given greater weight in its work.

I am grateful for your offer for a representative from the Greater London Authority (GLA) to join the Heathrow Noise Forum and I would be pleased to accept. One of my team will contact Matt Gorman, as you suggest, to discuss the details.

I have agreed with the London Assembly that I will make this exchange of correspondence publicly available and so I trust that you have no objection to this and the preceding letters being published on the GLA website shortly.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Cc: Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Richard Deakin, Chief Executive, NATS
Andrew Haines, Chief Executive, CAA