

MAYOR OF LONDON

Colin Matthews

Chief Executive
Heathrow Airport Limited
The Compass Centre
Nelson Road
Hounslow
Middlesex TW6 2GW

Date: 27 NOV 2013

Dear Colin

I have recently received a number of complaints from residents in the London Borough of Barnet about a significant worsening in aircraft noise, caused seemingly by an increase in the number of planes flying overhead. This issue has also been raised with me by Andrew Dismore, the London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden.

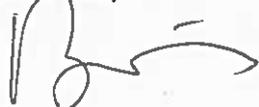
Whilst I was aware that Heathrow had been undertaking a series of Operational Freedoms trials, to my knowledge these concluded in February. Given that the complaints relate to an increase in noise from May onwards I am mystified as to why the flight paths into and out of Heathrow appear to have changed. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could advise me what changes, if any, have been made to flight paths that could have led to these complaints from residents in the Borough of Barnet. If there have been changes were they, I wonder, communicated to local residents? Similarly, was there a prior period of consultation?

As you know the level of noise pollution Heathrow inflicts upon Londoners is unparalleled in the world and far outstrips the other major airports in Europe. More than 766,000 people, the vast majority of them Londoners, fall within Heathrow's 55dB L_{den} noise contour.

The idea that people living a long way from this area are also adversely impacted is of serious concern. I note that the Early Morning Respite Trial you undertook between last November and this March focused entirely on the noise impacts outside of the 55dB L_{den} noise contour. It concluded that while noise impacts for some were improved during this trial, conditions for many others worsened.

This troubles me. Not only does it suggest the current approach to measuring aviation noise fails to capture the way in which it is experienced, it is also becoming clear that even relatively minor changes to Heathrow's operations – however well intentioned – can have a profound impact on the health and well-being of those under the flightpaths.

Yours ever,



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