

From: Ian Roper
Sent: 08 August 2023 09:33
To: noise.enquiries@ltn.aero
Cc: Oliver Heald MP; complaints@caa.co.uk; public.enquiries@nats.co.uk; Lutonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Subject: AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint and Luton Airport expansion

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to my previous emails complaining about excessive aircraft noise that is disrupting our village, we continue to be affected by this on a daily basis.

Flights affect us throughout the day and last week I was kept awake by aircraft into the very early hours of the morning. I do not have details as I was trying to get to sleep.

Having moved to rural Rushden to enjoy the peaceful surroundings, the current situation impacts us significantly.

I note that there is a preliminary planning meeting for the proposed Luton Airport expansion to be held on August 10th. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend.

I do however want my concerns to be taken into consideration.

Whether flights approach from the North, South or West, my house and the village of Rushden seems to be a navigation beacon for flights landing at Luton (see images attached).

Flights do not approach from the East as this is Stansted airports take-off route. Another source of unwelcomed noise.

As I have mentioned previously, I cannot understand why aircraft aren't routed over the main road network, where ambient noise levels are much higher.

Considering the very low ambient noise levels in our area, the impact of aircraft noise is awful. The expansion of Luton Airport will only make this worse and I strongly object to its expansion.

Given recent news events, what consideration is being given to environmental and public health impacts caused by these expansion plans?

I am copying various others including the planning inspectorate.

Incidentally, I would like to point out that I did not receive a reply to my email of July 17th other than your automated receipt acknowledgement.

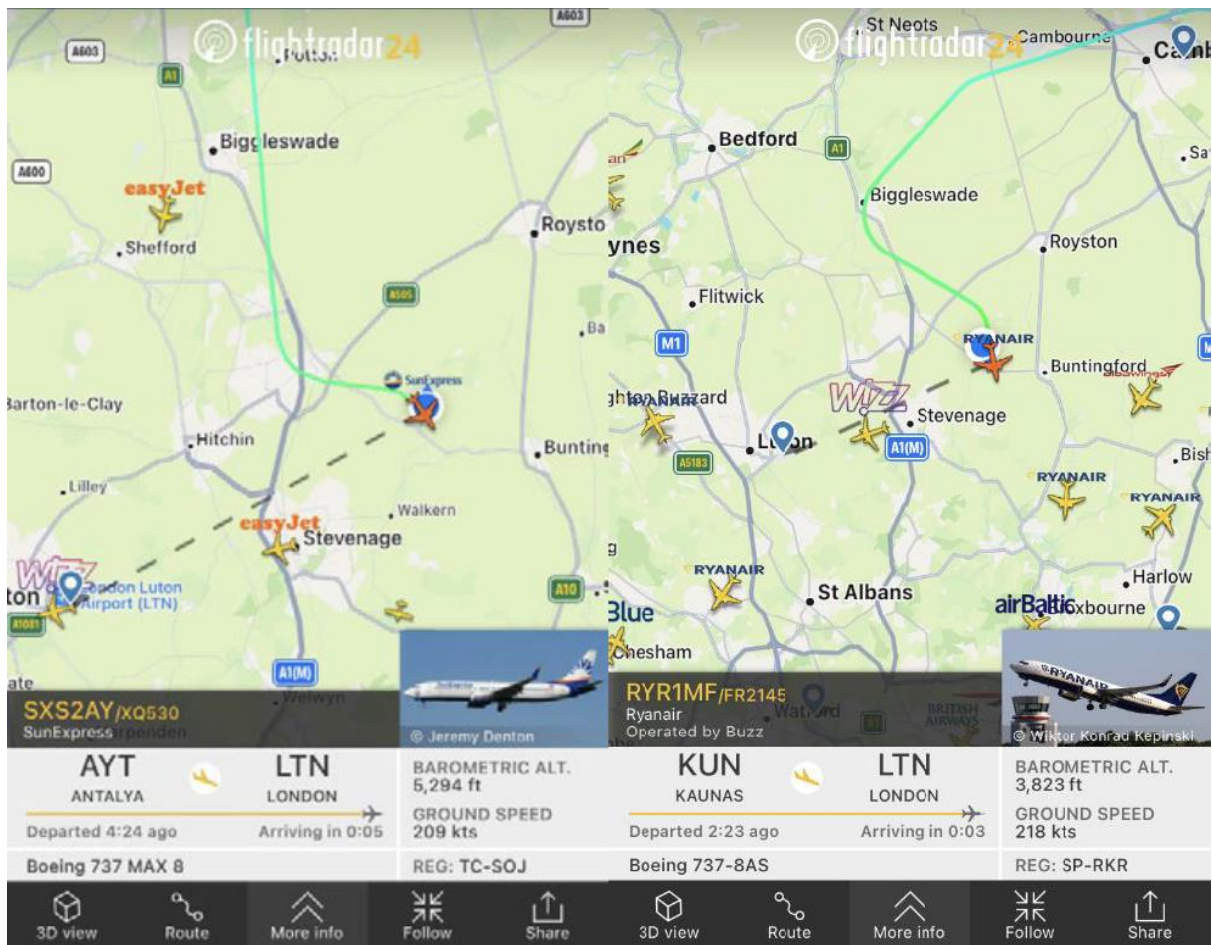
Regards

Ian Roper

Flight examples over SG90SG. These are a tiny example of flights to show the flight path.



Irrespective of flight direction coming from the North, South or West, flights pass over our house regularly. Flights do not approach from the East as this is Stansted Airports take-off route!

North



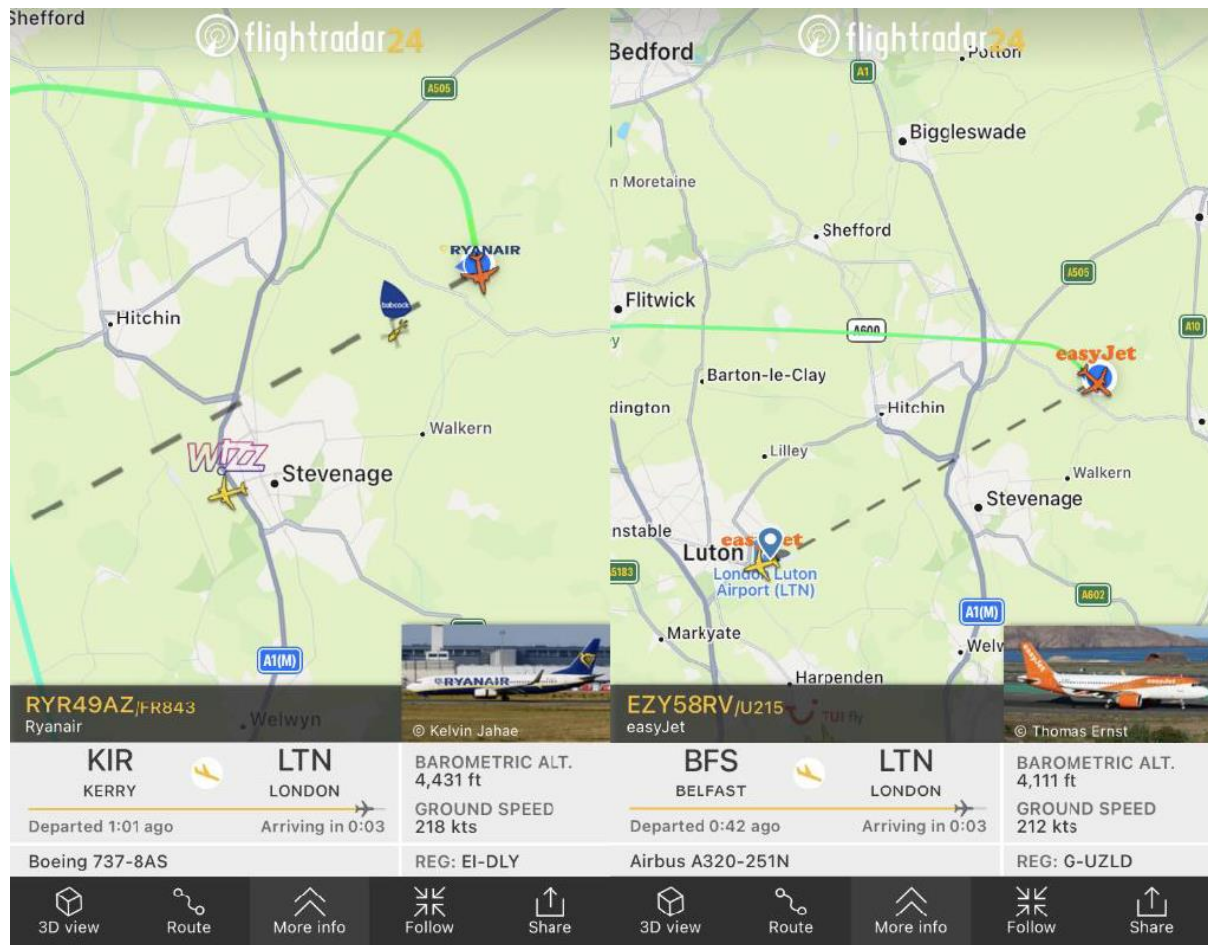
South

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RYR3LT/FR8426 Ryanair 		RYR5AK/FR3883 Ryanair 			
ALC ALICANTE	LTN LONDON	BAROMETRIC ALT. 5,018 ft GROUND SPEED 202 kts REG: EI-EMF	MLA MALTA	LTN LONDON	BAROMETRIC ALT. 3,719 ft GROUND SPEED 191 kts REG: EI-DLV
Departed 2:07 ago Arriving in 0:05		Departed 3:16 ago Arriving in 0:03		Boeing 737-8AS	

3D view Route More info Follow Share 3D view Route More info Follow Share

West



From: Ian Roper
Sent: 08 August 2023 12:20
To: Lutonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
Cc: Oliver Heald MP
Subject: Additional emails relating to AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint and Luton Airport expansion

Dear Sir/Madam,

In recent communications with your case officer Rammiel Burnie, it was suggested that I may submit historic emails between myself, Luton Airport and others for your consideration in the airport expansion application.

These emails, provide additional context and details around the noise disturbance that we and our village is experiencing. They also put into question the effectiveness and fairness of the consultation period over the Covid lockdown.

Regards

Ian Roper

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From: Ian Roper
Sent: 21 July 2023 10:09
To: noise.enquiries@ltn.aero
Cc: Oliver Heald MP; complaints@caa.co.uk; public.enquiries@nats.co.uk
Subject: AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Rushden in North Hertfordshire and have lived here for nearly 21 years.

I wrote to complain about aircraft noise over our village on June 21st 2023.

Aircraft noise continues to blight our village and on Monday evening (July 17th 2023), we suffered from numerous flights very late that night.

I do not have time to record every flight that disturbs us but this is another example of how our peaceful rural area has become badly affected. We are affected every day.

EXAMPLES OF LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHTS OVER RUSHDEN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Date	Time	Airline	Departure	Destination	Altitude (ft)
17/07/2023	23:25:00	Easyjet	Tenerife	Luton	3,235
17/07/2023	23:27:00	Wizz Air	Bacau	Luton	3,737
17/07/2023	23:29:00	TUI	Enfidha	Luton	3,866
17/07/2023	23:32:00	Easyjet	Chania	Luton	3,914
17/07/2023	23:44:00	Easyjet	Faro	Luton	3,891
17/07/2023	23:47:00	Wizz Air	Bucharest	Luton	3,973
17/07/2023	23:51:00	Ryanair	Cork	Luton	4,126
17/07/2023	23:54:00	Easyjet	Palma de Mallorca	Luton	3,759
17/07/2023	23:57:00	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	4,799
17/07/2023	23:59:00	Wizz Air	Tirana	Luton	4,112
18/07/2023	00:01:00	Easyjet	Rhodes	Luton	3,876
18/07/2023	00:06:00	Easyjet	Geneva	Luton	3,635
18/07/2023	00:08:00	Easyjet	Edinburgh	Luton	3,702

In my opinion a small shift in flight path would make a big difference and wouldn't inconvenience others. Why for example aren't aircraft routed over main trunk roads such as the A1 and A10 in this instance. Areas with a higher ambient noise level will be less affected.

Our situation will be further impacted by the potential expansion of Luton airport, a scheme that I am strongly against, and I wish my complaints to be recorded and considered when the planning application is reviewed and the post AD6 review is undertaken.

I am copying Sir Oliver Heald, my local MP and the CAA and NATS.

Regards

Ian Roper

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From: Ian Roper
Sent: 10 July 2023 14:39
To: Oliver Heald MP
Subject: RE: AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint

Dear Sir Oliver,

Just following up on your email of June 30th. Curious whether you received a reply from Luton Airport?

It seems that Rushden and the surrounding villages are suffering with noise from aircraft taking off from Stansted and arriving at Luton.

I don't have time to record all flights that pass over (many directly over my house) but I have recorded some from approximately 7am to 8am today.

EXAMPLES OF LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHTS OVER RUSHDEN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Date	Time	Airline	Departure	Destination	Altitude (ft)
10/07/2023	07:04:00	Wizz Air	Wroclaw	Luton	4,146
10/07/2023	07:27:00	Wizz Air	Warsaw	Luton	3,720
10/07/2023	07:31:00	Wizz Air	Suceava	Luton	3,512
10/07/2023	07:33:00	Wizz Air	Gdansk	Luton	4,224
10/07/2023	07:36:00	Wizz Air	Sofia	Luton	3,956
10/07/2023	07:45:00	Wizz Air	Katowice	Luton	N/A
10/07/2023	07:47:00	Wizz Air	Craiova	Luton	3,563
10/07/2023	07:52:00	Ryanair	Dublin	Luton	4,713
10/07/2023	07:55:00	Easyjet	Edinburgh	Luton	4,665
10/07/2023	08:01:00	Easyjet	Belfast	Luton	3,899
10/07/2023	08:04:00	Wizz Air	Cluj-Napoca	Luton	4,308
10/07/2023	08:06:00	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	4,107

As I say, this doesn't capture all flights during this hour but gives a reasonable representation.

The village is blighted by the noise especially since it is such a quiet rural area.

I wonder why flights can't be directed over the main roads or areas that have a higher ambient noise level.

I will continue to email Luton Airport but I fear that my voice won't be heard!

Regards

Ian

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From: Ian Roper
Sent: 24 June 2023 11:18

To: Noise.Enquiries@ltn.aero
Cc: Oliver Heald MP; complaints@caa.co.uk; public.enquiries@nats.co.uk
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint

Dear Adriana,

Thank you for your reply.

The consultation period was held during the extraordinary times of Covid so I and many others were unaware. Also aircraft traffic was minimal at this time. I think I've read that it was 10% of normal levels. As such, for those who were aware of the consultation, aircraft noise was not so 'front of mind'.

As for altitude and the associated noise levels, choosing to position flight paths over quiet rural areas seems like a flawed decision. The impact must surely be considered relative to ambient background noise rather than the absolute noise. Because our ambient noise levels and those of other rural areas are so low, the noise of aircraft at 5,000 ft and below is significant, whereas over urban areas it has a smaller impact as ambient noise levels are already higher. The impact on those who are currently affected by AD6 is only going to get worse if Luton Airport is allowed to expand, which makes it all the more important to get this right now. My family was sat in our garden yesterday evening and once again we had numerous low flying jets fly over, or very close to our house heading into Luton. On at least four occasions (there might have been more), aircraft altitude was closer to 3,000ft (see below) rather than 5,000ft. I do not have the time to record statistics for every plane on everyday but please believe me, the impact is significant.

EXAMPLES OF LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHTS OVER RUSHDEN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Date	Time	Airline	Departure	Destination	Altitude (ft)	
23/06/202	20:01:0				3,17	
3	0	Easyjet	Palma de Mallo	Luton	8	low altitude
23/06/202	21:41:0				3,09	
3	0	Wizz Air	Timisoara	Luton	2	low altitude
23/06/202	22:02:0				3,25	
3	0	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	2	low altitude
23/06/202	22:05:0				3,41	
3	0	Easyjet	Inverness	Luton	5	low altitude

Given the extraordinary circumstances (Covid) during the consultation period and the method of assessing noise impact in absolute rather than relative terms, the consultation should be rerun and the guidance for assessing noise impact should be reviewed urgently, with any resulting noise policy change having retrospective authority.

Regards

Ian Roper

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From: Ian Roper
Sent: 21 June 2023 10:35
To: noise.enquiries@ltn.aero

Cc: Oliver Heald MP; complaints@caa.co.uk; public.enquiries@nats.co.uk

Subject: AD6 Aircraft Noise Complaint

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Rushden in North Hertfordshire and have lived here for nearly 21 years.

During this time, I have never experienced aircraft noise as it is currently and as such I wish to complain.

As I understand it, this is caused by the frequency and altitude of descending aircraft approaching Luton via the new AD6 route.

The background noise has risen to the point where our peaceful rural sounds are drowned out and the frequency of aircraft means that we get little respite from this increased noise.

I am annoyed by the constant noise and can no longer enjoy a peaceful garden. I am now disturbed at night and find it more difficult to sleep. Telephone calls are made difficult when aircraft fly past.

My understanding is that this change has come about without any consultation and that the process lacks any independent governance since LLA and NATS are collecting data themselves before presenting this to the CAA.

Surely this cannot be right. It suggests that data could be manipulated to suit the required outcome for LLA. What consideration is LLA giving to environmental and public health impacts caused by its expansion plans?

Aircraft noise and frequency is now a blight on our peaceful hamlet and its surrounding area.

I have collated a few examples of the flights that have disturbed me on one evening (June 20th 2023 around 9pm). Please find this summarised below.

EXAMPLES OF LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHTS OVER RUSHDEN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE (20/06/23 around 9pm)

Date	Time	Airline	Departure	Destination	Altitude (ft)
20/06/2023	20:49:00	Easyjet	Belfast	Luton	4,545
20/06/2023	20:54:00	Wizz Air	Warsaw	Luton	4,645
20/06/2023	21:01:00	Wizz Air	Riga	Luton	4,610
20/06/2023	21:03:00	Wizz Air	Varna	Luton	4,754
20/06/2023	21:05:00	Wizz Air	Iasi	Luton	4,996
20/06/2023	21:07:00	Wizz Air	Debrecen	Luton	5,084
20/06/2023	21:09:00	Wizz Air	Timisoara	Luton	4,807
20/06/2023	21:15:00	Wizz Air	Craiova	Luton	5,100
20/06/2023	21:17:00	Air Charter	Stuttgart	Luton	4,413
20/06/2023	21:20:00	Ryanair	Rzeszow	Luton	4,848
20/06/2023	21:22:00	Ryanair	Faro	Luton	4,348

I am not averse to each area taking its fair share of aircraft noise, but I am strongly opposed to the current situation and the expansion plans for Luton airport.

I am copying Sir Oliver Heald, my local MP and the CAA and NATS.

Regards

Ian Roper

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From: Ian Roper
Sent: 09 August 2023 09:16
To: Lutonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk; noise.enquiries@ltn.aero
Cc: Oliver Heald MP; complaints@caa.co.uk; public.enquiries@nats.co.uk
Subject: Interested Party reference number: 20039476 - Luton Airport AD6 and Proposed Expansion

Dear Sir/Madam,

A concerned neighbour of mine has passed a reply received from Luton Airport on July 10th in response to her complaint about air traffic noise over our houses and village – Rushden Hertfordshire.

I note that the reply refers to a required altitude of 6,000ft although weather conditions may result in some aircraft flying lower.

I have submitted previous emails to complain about noise and register my opposition to the proposed expansion.

I would now like to highlight that of the sample of aircraft flights I have recorded over the past 7 or 8 weeks, none of the aircraft flying above Rushden have been 6,000ft. The average of my sample is 4,098ft (see attached).

Even allowing for recording tolerance/weather conditions this is very large difference between the actual and required altitude.

I would appreciate this being submitted to the planning committee and would also appreciate a response from Luton Airport as to why every flight I have recorded is well below the 6,000ft required altitude.

Regards

Ian Roper

EXAMPLES OF LUTON AIRPORT FLIGHTS OVER RUSHDEN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

random sample as and when I have time to record the data

Date	Time	Airline	Departure	Destination	Altitude (ft)
20/06/2023	20:49:00	Easyjet	Belfast	Luton	4,545
20/06/2023	20:54:00	Wizz Air	Warsaw	Luton	4,645
20/06/2023	21:01:00	Wizz Air	Riga	Luton	4,610
20/06/2023	21:03:00	Wizz Air	Varna	Luton	4,754

20/06/2023	21:05:00	Wizz Air	Iasi	Luton	4,996
20/06/2023	21:07:00	Wizz Air	Debrecen	Luton	5,084
20/06/2023	21:09:00	Wizz Air	Timisoara	Luton	4,807
20/06/2023	21:15:00	Wizz Air	Craiova	Luton	5,100
20/06/2023	21:17:00	Air Charter	Stuttgart	Luton	4,413
20/06/2023	21:20:00	Ryanair	Rzeszow	Luton	4,848
20/06/2023	21:22:00	Ryanair	Faro	Luton	4,348
23/06/2023	20:01:00	Easyjet	Palma de Mallorca	Luton	3,178
23/06/2023	21:41:00	Wizz Air	Timisoara	Luton	3,092
23/06/2023	22:02:00	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	3,252
23/06/2023	22:05:00	Easyjet	Inverness	Luton	3,415
10/07/2023	07:04:00	Wizz Air	Wroclaw	Luton	4,146
10/07/2023	07:27:00	Wizz Air	Warsaw	Luton	3,720
10/07/2023	07:31:00	Wizz Air	Suceava	Luton	3,512
10/07/2023	07:33:00	Wizz Air	Gdansk	Luton	4,224
10/07/2023	07:36:00	Wizz Air	Sofia	Luton	3,956
10/07/2023	07:45:00	Wizz Air	Katowice	Luton	N/A
10/07/2023	07:47:00	Wizz Air	Craiova	Luton	3,563
10/07/2023	07:52:00	Ryanair	Dublin	Luton	4,713
10/07/2023	07:55:00	Easyjet	Edinburgh	Luton	4,665
10/07/2023	08:01:00	Easyjet	Belfast	Luton	3,899
10/07/2023	08:04:00	Wizz Air	Cluj-Napoca	Luton	4,308
10/07/2023	08:06:00	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	4,107
17/07/2023	23:25:00	Easyjet	Tenerife	Luton	3,235
17/07/2023	23:27:00	Wizz Air	Bacau	Luton	3,737
17/07/2023	23:29:00	TUI	Enfidha	Luton	3,866

17/07/2023	23:32:00	Easyjet	Chania	Luton	3,914
17/07/2023	23:44:00	Easyjet	Faro	Luton	3,891
17/07/2023	23:47:00	Wizz Air	Bucharest	Luton	3,973
17/07/2023	23:51:00	Ryanair	Cork	Luton	4,126
17/07/2023	23:54:00	Easyjet	Palma de Mallorca	Luton	3,759
17/07/2023	23:57:00	Easyjet	Glasgow	Luton	4,799
17/07/2023	23:59:00	Wizz Air	Tirana	Luton	4,112
18/07/2023	00:01:00	Easyjet	Rhodes	Luton	3,876
18/07/2023	00:06:00	Easyjet	Geneva	Luton	3,635
18/07/2023	00:08:00	Easyjet	Edinburgh	Luton	3,702
06/08/2023	07:51:00	Wizz Air	Gdansk	Luton	3,451
06/08/2023	07:53:00	Ryanair	Kaunas	Luton	3,823
06/08/2023	08:00:00	Easyjet	Belfast	Luton	3,608
06/08/2023	08:57:00	Wizz Air	Larnaca	Luton	3,931
06/08/2023	09:13:00	Wizz Air	Craiova	Luton	4,912
06/08/2023	09:21:00	Ryanair	Dublin	Luton	3,844
06/08/2023	12:06:00	Ryanair	Kerry	Luton	4,431
					4,098

On Monday, July 10, 2023, 3:15 pm, LTN Noise Enquiries <Noise.Enquiries@ltn.aero> wrote:

Dear Ms White,

Many thanks for your recent email noise report to the Flight Operations team at London Luton Airport. I can confirm this complaint has been logged accordingly within our complaints database.

Earlier last year (February 2022) we implemented an airspace change which would have changed the tracks from aircraft in your area, this was a co-sponsored proposal from both NATS and London Luton Airport. The aim of this airspace change was to separate Luton's arrival routes from Stansted's arrival routes. The new routes were consulted upon from October 2020 – February 2021. We then submitted the airspace change proposal to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in June 2021 with them granting approval in November 2021.

Furthermore, regarding the altitude of aircraft in your area, we check this daily as part of our ongoing monitoring. I have looked at recent data and can confirm that most aircraft are at the required altitude or higher. There may be some aircraft lower than 6,000ft and this is due to the weather conditions on the day. Aircraft use altimeters which is an instrument used to measure the altitude of an aircraft above a fixed level. This level is based on barometric pressure used to interpret how high they are – air pressure reduces with height, so the lower the pressure, the higher an aircraft altimeter will indicate. However, the weather also changes the air pressure so it may be slightly higher or slightly lower depending on the air pressure in the area, at the time.

When redesigning airspace we must follow the government guidance, this is currently to overfly the least number of people and therefore typically routes will overfly rural areas. I understand that this may cause more disturbance due to the lower ambient noise level, but we must comply with the government guidance in this regard. We will shortly be conducting noise monitoring around the area and once complete will create a community noise monitoring report.

Aircraft in your area will be receiving individual instructions from Air Traffic Control and therefore may not be at the same altitude or follow the same track each time. There are no set arrival routes or set altitudes for arrivals into Luton. The track and altitude will be based on other aircraft in the airspace at the time and this typically disperses the aircraft tracks over a wider area. This was the preferred option within the consultation (Option 1 in the consultation document).

There is a 7-stage process for changing airspace, the final stage is a post implementation review (PIR) this is for 12 months after implementation. During this period, we collect data on complaints, tracks and altitude of aircraft on this route. This will be provided to the Civil Aviation Authority (as regulators of the airspace) who will decide if the route can be made permanent or if changes are required. You can find out more about the Post Implementation Review on the airspace change portal.

We do recognise that our operations can have an impact on neighbouring communities, and we of course have every sympathy with those affected and I would like to apologise for the disturbance you have experienced.

I do hope this information is of assistance to you.

Kind regards,

Adriana



London Luton Airport

Adriana

Flight Operations Administrator

London Luton Airport

Percival House, Percival Way