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Security
Agency

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Our Ref: 64560

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

26th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: Application by London Luton Airport Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed London Luton Airport Expansion Project
Examining Authority's Written Questions**

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to input to the Written Questions issued on the 10 October 2023. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.***

We note that the Examining Authority has posed the following question to UKHSA for response:

"The UKHSA [RR-1546] recommended that health monitoring should be undertaken in light of the scale of adverse noise impacts from the Proposed Development. Explain what specific, proportionate monitoring could be undertaken to enable understanding of impacts on health and quality of life for affected communities and how this could be used to inform future mitigation requirements."

We confirm our response to the Examining Authority on this matter as follows:
Transportation noise is known to be a risk factor to several health and quality of life outcomes. Some of these outcomes (e.g. cardiovascular disease, stroke) are also linked to a number of other risk factors, and within the framework of the Luton Airport Expansion project (the Scheme), it can be difficult to attribute observed changes in these outcomes in the local population to changes in noise exposure as a result of the Scheme. However other health outcomes, such as long-term noise annoyance and noise-induced sleep disturbance are

directly and unambiguously linked to noise and can be measured relatively easily using standardised methods. Furthermore, besides being health endpoints, annoyance and sleep disturbance are thought to be on the causal pathway to other more serious physical and mental health outcomes.

In England there are currently two ongoing projects, sponsored by the Department for Transport, that are measuring noise annoyance, noise-induced sleep disturbance and other quality of life metrics in communities living around the main airports in England:

- Aviation Noise Attitudes Survey (ANAS), managed by the [Civil Aviation Authority](#)
- [Aviation Night Noise Effects](#) (ANNE), managed by a consortium including St George's, University of London, NatCen Social Research, Noise Consultants Limited, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Both are based on social research that can be deployed cost-effectively at scale and repeated at regular intervals. Full details and results from both studies, including the relevant questionnaires, are expected to be published in 2025.

In addition Heathrow Airport Ltd has been working with other international airports to better understand the value and effectiveness of the interventions airports make. Against this background, Heathrow airport has commissioned an independent longitudinal study to evaluate the QoL and health effects of the Heathrow Noise Insulation Scheme. A pilot study is running in 2023 for developing and refining the methodology and questionnaires; the main study will run from 2024. The study will collect information on noise exposure within the home and individual-level information about a range of QoL, wellbeing and health outcomes. See [Porter et al.](#) for more details.

UKHSA believes that these three studies could form a suitable basis on which specific, proportionate surveys can be designed and deployed amongst the population living around Luton airport at regular intervals matched to key project milestones (subject to more detailed discussions with the studies' managers and funders). This type of monitoring could inform, amongst other things, the rate of deployment of the noise insulation scheme, the geographical coverage of the scheme and whether alternative ventilation measures need to be provided to ensure a holistic healthy indoor environment. The monitoring would also deliver much needed evidence to inform future applications for airport expansion.

If you require any clarification on the above points or wish to discuss any particular issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency
nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration