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Sent: 23 January 2024 13:01
To: Luton Airport
Subject: Objection to an increase in night flights at Luton Airport

London Luton Airport Expansion - Examination Stage of the Project

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Luton Rising wish to significantly increase the number of flights in and out of the airport both day and night.

I understand that the Inspectors think there should be a limit on early morning and late evening flights. I fully agree that there should be a limit. However, I think the levels they propose which would mean a doubling from around 22 per hour to around 44 per hour between 6am and 7am, and at 11pm an increase from around 11 per hour to 18 per hour. This is very disappointing and, if the proposal is accepted, will cause great distress to those of us living in the vicinity of the airport.

I moved to Caddington in 2002 when there were 6m passengers. I realised that the airport would expand but over the years, the noise and disturbance levels have increased to a point where in 2019, I was seriously considering selling my beloved home and moving away. During that summer, despite the heat, I was forced to try to sleep with my windows closed – as I simply cannot function on six or less hours of sleep day after day after day. The effect on one's health and quality of life of regularly getting less than six hours is very serious and is acknowledged to lead to a large number of physical and mental health issues. I appreciate that the inspectors are talking about a six and a half hour period, but it is impossible to fall asleep immediately after the last plane has passed over.

So I am utterly appalled at the prospect of the number of flights increasing so significantly from the 2019 base.

I now understand that residents have been asked to state a preference for an increase in late evening flights or early morning flights. I can tolerate flights during the day when I am usually either inside my home or busy with other activities but any night-time flying (any time from 11pm to 7pm) is a nightmare for us. The proposed number of flights would mean at best a plane flying over every three minutes and at worst more frequently than every one and a half minutes – this continuous noise would be intolerable! The problem is especially serious during the summer when windows have to be opened if we are not to toss and turn in discomfort and wake up covered in sweat. In the summer the evening flights are slightly more of a problem than the early morning, as the air has not cooled down after the heat of the day. But in all honesty, the difference between the two time periods is negligible. To be asked to choose between the two evils is like trying to decide which is a more comfortable form of torture! Disturbance in both periods has a deleterious effect on our health and quality of life.

So, to be frank, **I am not prepared to tolerate any more flights during the night-time period than we had in 2019.** I understand that the airport wishes to expand and I would accept a limited increase in day-time flights but in the context of global warming/climate change and our increasing knowledge of the harm done by emissions from aircraft and ground vehicles, I strongly oppose any major increase in passenger numbers at London Luton Airport.

For some reason, as I understand it, unlike Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, Luton Airport is not included in the government's current policies on night-time flying nor in the consultation to review/update the restrictions imposed. I find this very odd, as Luton Airport is situated right in the middle of a large area of residential housing – all of whose residents are affected to a greater or lesser extent by its night-time operations. Even under the current regime, Heathrow does not schedule any departures for seven full hours - between 23:00 and 06:00. Why does this not apply to Luton too? Is our health and well-being less important than that of people living around the other three airports?

Yours faithfully

Sandra Lawes

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