

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Luton Airport](#)
Subject: Luton Airport and AD6 Consultation
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Dear Planning Inspectorate

We are submitting our concerns regarding the proposed Luton airport expansion and AD6 flight path consultation. We are residents of Rushden, North Herts and are seriously affected by low flying aircraft noise.

Rushden is a small quiet village with very low ambient noise levels which has been detrimentally affected due to the AD6 flight routing changes causing extremely loud low flying aircraft to pass over our village home.

There are two major issues currently under review, the AD6 Airspace Design Consultation and the DCO Planning Application for Luton Airport expansion. These two issues **should not** be considered in isolation because the outcomes from these activities will have a fundamental effect on the wellbeing of residents of rural communities like ours.

The airport expansion should not be considered as viable and necessary until all environmental issues have been addressed and this includes the AD6 airspace design.

The AD6 airspace design needs to be proven as safe and effective addressing the following issues:

1. Routing of flight paths; We feel that the routing should be directed over main roads and around villages to minimise the detrimental effects to rural communities like ours. Where routing across housing areas becomes unavoidable the noise magnification factor should be considered, areas with higher ambient noise (for example industrial areas or major roads) are less affected by aircraft noise than quiet rural housing communities.
2. Compliance; both with the designated flight paths and with environmental requirements (pollution); operators need to demonstrate compliance and be fined for each and every deviation.
3. Timing of flights; night time flights should not be permitted. The detrimental effect of sleep disturbance affecting mental health is well documented.
4. Frequency of flights. The timing between flights needs to be addressed as they are currently within minutes of each other offering no respite from the continuing disturbance.

The DCO Planning Application for Luton Airport expansion needs to address the following issues:

1. Environmental impact; as a society we should be making far more effort to reduce our environmental impact. An increase in airport capacity and flight numbers is contrary to this.
2. AD6 flight path and its effect on local communities must be addressed by selecting an alternative route which is then shown to be safe, effective and aids route compliance.
3. Compliant Performance Metrics; Eurocontrol data already identifies Luton as the

worst-performing London airport in terms of noise pollution and environmental impact. Approving further expansion under these conditions is irresponsible and must not be granted until continuing compliance is demonstrated.

4. Operator Licensing; if granted, licenses should be for much shorter (2 years maximum) periods. Continuing violations in compliance must have consequences - revocation of operator licenses.

Additionally we note the differing deadline dates for these two decisions. This is a major concern as it drives the very real possibility that important decisions on airport expansion will be made before adequate resolution of the flight path routing and safe flight capacity issues. The airspace must be safe, effective, and fit for purpose before any infrastructure decisions are made.

We urge the Planning Inspectorate to review the RELAS report (RELAS_AD6_Stage_7_Common_Submission_version_1.0), which has already been submitted to the CAA as part of the AD6 consultation.

The Planning Inspectorate must hold Luton Airport accountable for addressing all of the aforementioned concerns before any approvals are granted.

Regards

David & Kimberley Cole

