

**CAGNE**  
**Communities Against Gatwick**  
**Noise and Emissions**

**The umbrella aviation community and  
environment group for Sussex, Surrey, and Kent**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

TR020005

[GatwickAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:GatwickAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear PINS

With reference to the preliminary meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, CAGNE, the umbrella aviation community and environment group for Sussex, Surrey, and Kent wish to offer the following -

- We believe the timing of the hearings is within the purdah period for May elections in areas surrounding Gatwick Airport, so we question these hearings going ahead at that time. We believe many candidates' campaigns will reflect or heighten sensitivities about Gatwick and the ramifications of its proposals. Also, once elected, candidates and councillors will have very little time to bring themselves up to speed on the issues surrounding the new runway DCO process and any ramifications on their elected areas.

We understand that there are elections in May for police commissioner, and District, Parish and Town councillors, as well as the date for the general election being not yet revealed.

Purdah describes the period immediately before elections when specific restrictions on communications activity are in place. Pre-election rules restrict activity wider than just publicity. Use of council facilities and resources; the members' code of conduct, developing new policies and holding of events – including some meetings – featuring elected officials should all be carefully considered during a period of heightened sensitivity.

This is more so as the additional dates offered by PINS for additional hearings, should they be needed, are 29<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> June and 29<sup>th</sup> July.

- Timing of the hearings is very narrow, so we ask that they be extended; Gatwick Airport have highly skilled teams of staff working on this project 24/7 whereas residents and communities are endeavouring to keep pace and understand the process. We therefore request that more time between hearings be permitted, so that we are ensured a full opportunity to respond.

- The visits to-date by the inspectorate to the sites of impact and development are not far-reaching enough to allow inspectors to evaluate the full impact of this new runway application.
  - We request that specific hearings be held on -
    - Policy – the application is not compliant with policy MBU
    - Climate change
    - Lack of workforce, affordable housing, healthcare, and amenities
    - Air quality
    - Flooding and sewerage
- We note and welcome hearings on aviation noise, surface transport.
- We request that CAGNE be permitted to attend the site visit (7<sup>th</sup> March) to represent communities and the environment, to ensure that Gatwick Airport management do not have undue influence over the PINS.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sally Pavey

Chair of CAGNE

On behalf of CAGNE committee

Est Feb 2014

