

GREAT HALLINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

MRS F.M.R. TOWNSEND
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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Night Flights Consultation,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
Horseferry Road,
London. SW1P 4DR.

27th February 2017

Dear Sirs,

NIGHT FLIGHTS CONSULTATION

Great Hallingbury Parish Council stress once again, as in previous Night Flight consultations, that there should be a total ban on all night flights other than essential or emergency services. However, the council is realistic enough to see that this is unlikely to happen within the next five year period.

While the number of people affected around Stansted Airport may be lower than at Heathrow and Gatwick, this is a rural location where background noise levels at night are generally very low, which means that night flights have a greater impact and cause much disturbance.

We would welcome the use of quieter aircraft at Stansted but not at the expense of an increase in the number of flights. With regard to freight, it should be more important to consider the well-being of the people affected by night flights than the 'timely delivery to key markets' of goods carried. Any increase, particularly in freight, through the night, at any hour, or 'shoulder periods' would be totally unacceptable, excepting emergency cases.

The night period is defined in the Night Flying Restrictions as being between 11.30pm and 6.00am and this has been a longstanding point of controversy in this area. This is mainly because the 'shoulder periods' to these times are not governed by any rules, and these are the times when people are either trying to get to sleep, or before waking time. This consistent disturbance to sleep is not good for people's general well-being. We are of the opinion that the night period should be extended to run from 11.00pm to 7am.

We urge you to give fair and due consideration to the points made above for the good of our village and those around us, and so that a good relationship can be maintained between Stansted Airport and the parishes local to it.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs F. Townsend,
Clerk to the Council.