

High Easter Parish Council Response to the DfT Night Flight Restrictions Consultation

Q8. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposed environmental objective for the next regime?

High Easter Parish Council **strongly disagrees** with the proposed environmental objective

“encourage the use of quieter aircraft to limit or reduce the number of people significantly affected by aircraft noise at night, while maintaining the existing benefits of night flights”.

Q9. Do you have any additional comments on our proposed environmental objective for the next regime?

There are no benefits of night flights to the residents of High Easter who live directly under the flightpath. This is a rural area with low ambient noise and the impact of ANY aircraft noise is magnified, including those from 'quieter aircraft'; current noise measures are out of date and take no account for the rural surroundings of our village. A large number of night flights are cargo and these are the oldest and noisiest aircraft flying out of Stansted regularly disturbing sleep for residents and adversely affecting the health of all who live here. This Parish Council has no confidence that Stansted will be able to *‘encourage the use of quieter aircraft’* and there is no evidence within the consultation report to explain how this could be achieved.

High Easter Parish Council supports Stop Stansted Expansion in calling for the government to phase out all night flights at Stansted by 2030 except in the case of a genuine emergency.

The Government's definition of 'night' applies only to the night quota period of 6½ hours from 11.30pm to 6.00am. The World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for community noise define 'night' as 8 hours from 11.00pm to 7.00am.

With no restriction on aircraft movements during the two 'shoulder' periods, from 11.00pm to 11.30pm and from 6.00am to 7.00am, there are significant numbers of aircraft overflying High Easter, particularly because low cost airlines who seek to use their aircraft for as many hours as possible, will make excessive use of these shoulder periods. Aircraft movements during the shoulder periods, particularly in the early morning are a major issue for High Easter residents due to their intensity which at peak is every two minutes.

High Easter Parish Councils asks that the Government applies the correct definition to 'night' as defined by the WHO and that the 'night quota' is applied to all flights between 11.00pm and 7.00am.

Q10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal for the length of the next regime?

No comment

Q11. Do you have any additional comments on our proposal for the length of the regime?

No comment

Q12. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce a new QC/0.125 category for aircraft between 81 and 83.9 EPNdB?

No comment

Q13. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal for all aircraft quieter than this to remain QC/0 but count towards the airports movement limit?

Agree

Q14. Do you have any additional comments on proposals for the Quota Count System?

High Easter Parish Council supports any proposal that ensures all aircraft movements are included in the 'night quota'.

Q15. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal for movement limits to remain unchanged at Heathrow?

No comment

Q16. Do you have any additional comments on our proposal for Heathrow's movement limit?

No comment

Q17. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal for movement limits to remain unchanged at Gatwick?

No comment

Q18. Do you have any additional comments on our proposal for Gatwick's movement limit?

No comment

Q19. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to raise Stansted's movement limits to reflect the current number of exempt aircraft in operation?

High Easter Parish Council **strongly disagrees** with the proposal to increase Stansted's annual movement limits by 1,700 to reflect movements of currently exempt aircraft.

Q20. Do you have any additional comments on our proposal for Stansted's movement limit?

The Government's Aviation Policy Framework is very clear 'that future growth in aviation should ensure that benefits are shared between the aviation industry and local communities.' High Easter Parish has not received any benefits from the growth at Stansted, quite the reverse. Increasing the number of movements to exactly equal the number of exempt flights is not sharing the benefit.

Q21. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposals to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Heathrow?

No Comment

Q22. Do you have any additional comments on how you feel noise quotas can best be set in order to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Heathrow?

No Comment

Q23. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposals to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Gatwick?

No comment

Q24. Do you have any additional comments on how you feel noise quotas can best be set in order to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Gatwick?

No Comment

Q25. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposals to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Stansted?

High Easter Parish Council supports **(agrees)** the use of quieter aircraft.

Q26. Do you have any additional comments on how you feel noise quotas can best be set in order to encourage the use of quieter aircraft at Stansted?

High Easter Parish Council supports the use of quieter aircraft, but they are still noisy and a major disturbance to the sleep and health of residents. Just one noisy aircraft can disturb residents. High Easter Parish Council asks that night flights be phased out by 2030 except in a genuine emergency.

Q27. Do you have any further views on our proposals, or their potential impact on the Government's ability to fulfil the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The assumption that only people living within the 48dB LAeq 6.5hr night contour are the “*main affected groups*”, is wholly inaccurate. High Easter village lies beyond this limit, directly under the main flight path. With the changes to departure routes in February 2016, the noise disturbance has intensified and is now a major issue for people living in High Easter, complaints have gone through the roof and residents regularly attend Parish Council meetings to vent their frustrations. High Easter is a rural village with low ambient noise, its residents are constantly disturbed by overflying aircraft and this Parish Council feels strongly that this should not occur 24 hours a day. This Parish Council asks that the Government works to eliminate all night flights from Stansted.