



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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Night flight decision disappointing

The Government's long-delayed decision on the night flight rules for the next five years has at last been published. It is at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627890/night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-decision-document.pdf

GACC finds it disappointing that there is to be no reduction in the number of night flights. Brendon Sewill, GACC chairman, commented: 'Many of our members want to see a total ban on all night flights at Gatwick, as has been promised for Heathrow, and we proposed that at least there should be a gradual reduction towards that target. It is alarming that there is to be no change in the number permitted in winter which (since the current quota is not fully used) could permit a 60% increase in the actual number of night flights in winter.

GACC welcomes the reduction in the summer noise quotas¹ which will ensure no increase in noise during summer months. The environmental group had hoped for a reduction in noise levels at night², and is disappointed that the idea, floated by the Transport Department, of a gradual year-by-year reduction in noise quotas to put pressure on airlines to buy and use quieter aircraft has been abandoned - as a result of lobbying by the airlines.

Sewill again: 'It is wicked that the noise quota for the winter will also permit a 60% increase in noise levels at night in the winter. That appears to contradict the Government claim that the aim is to "Limit or reduce the number of people significantly affected by aircraft noise at night..."³

It is noted that Gatwick has over twice as many night flights, and more noise than Heathrow, despite the low ambient noise levels at night in many rural areas around Gatwick – meaning that each night flight causes more disturbance than in an urban area.

For more information, contact Brendon Sewill, GACC chairman. 01293 863 or 01293 862373

¹ At Gatwick there is a quota for the number of night flights allowed, and another quota for the number of noise points – with the noisier aircraft using up more noise points.

² As measured by the total number of noise points permitted.

³ Decision document paragraph 6.

Campaigning for a better environment for the whole area around Gatwick

GACC, founded in 1968, has as paid-up members over 50 councils and over 40 community groups. We have built a reputation for sound judgement and reliable information and thus have the support of all local Members of Parliament.