



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Robert Sinclair
Chief Executive Officer
London City Airport

Our Ref: ER3573
16 March 2023

Dear Mr Sinclair,

Recent plans submitted to Newham Council show London City Airport wants to increase its yearly passenger cap from 6.5 million to 9 million, extend its cut-off time of 13:00 on Saturdays to 18:30 all year round, as well as introduce 12 extra flights on Saturday afternoons during the Summer from 18:30 to 19:30, and add three extra flights in the morning.

My constituents have voiced many concerns around these proposals. They have noted how expansion would be out of line with our climate commitments and how this would increase the toxic air pollution problem all councils are seeking to tackle. They have also outlined how an increase of flights over the weekends will increase noise pollution, preventing residents from getting any respite from the pollution they already suffer from.

The current 24 hour no flying ban protects all Londoners from aircraft noise at sensitive times. Residents believe that this expansion of flights into the current quiet weekend period would create too great a disturbance to their leisure time and enjoyment of local parks and gardens.

The noise impact is far too great to be ignored over my constituency which has both City and Heathrow airports' flight paths going right through. As you will know Forest Hill ward in my constituency is much higher than surrounding areas and is particularly impacted by aircraft noise. For my constituents who are already experiencing significant levels of aircraft noise the increases in the proposal would be completely unacceptable.

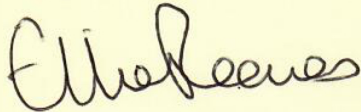
I do understand that the Airport states that only the quietest, cleanest aircraft will be used, and that the longer hours will mean they can offer more leisure routes and trips to more distant destinations. However, reports say the aircraft are only quieter during take-off because they rise at a steeper angle, with less noticeable improvements to noise during the rest of the flight.

Constituents have reported back to me that the new generation planes are not noticeably quieter over Forest Hill. There appears to be no evidence to date that new generation planes are noticeably quieter over Forest Hill than the models they replace. A study by constituents, at Forest Hill's Horniman Museum and Gardens and at other points under the arrivals flight path in Forest Hill, indicates that there is very little noise difference between new and old generation aircraft.

New generation aircraft offer little to no noise benefit to the Forest Hill community, before seeking any changes to planning permissions that adversely impact this constituency, the airport should focus on introducing measures that do, such as flying higher, using Continuous Descent Approaches and the use of alternating routes. I also support the creation of an aviation noise authority and I would not want to see any expansion go ahead until this was in place.

I look forward to a response as to how these issues I have outlined will be resolved at your earliest convenience.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ellie Reeves'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ellie' being more prominent than the last name 'Reeves'.

Ellie Reeves
Member of Parliament for Lewisham West and Penge

Cc: Mr Tim Walker