

IMPACT STATEMENT  
LONDON CITY AIRPORT EXPANSION PLAN APPEAL PUBLIC INQUIRY  
Tuesday 5th December 2023

My name is Jackie Laidler. I oppose the expansion appeal. I am here today to represent an area 3 miles from City Airport.

I live in Thamesmead, where we are surrounded by 7Km of canals, 5 lakes and 240 hectares of parks and green space. It is a town that has grown considerably over the decades and now has a 45,000 residents.

We have lived in the same house since before the airport opened. The airport opened for limited business flights, therefore limited impact on us. It is now unrecognisable as a business airport as the majority of passengers fly for leisure. We are now retired, yet we cannot enjoy the peace and tranquility we worked hard for, thanks to the deafening noise from the increasing numbers of flights below 3K ft. I wondered if I was becoming more sensitive and if I was imagining that there were more and more planes. As I talked to neighbours, they also felt there had been an increase and that it had become intolerable. But we all felt powerless to do anything.

When we heard back in July that Newham Council had refused LCA planning permission to expand, we were delighted. At last, we felt assured that we would not have to endure EVEN MORE disturbance.

With the current volume of arrivals and departures we all feel our quality of life is impacted.

I now use apps to check the decibels and destinations, so I know most low fly flights are for City Airport and are between 70- 80 decibels. I took a screen shot the other day when the LCA continuous monitor a mile from my house read 77.9 dB when an LCA jet flew over.

We can no longer socialise in our gardens, as you cannot hold a conversation without being drowned out by the thundering noise as the planes go by; with more than 10 per hour at busy times.

The noise breaks your concentration, so you can't even sit quietly to read a book.

My wellbeing is further disturbed as I am regularly interrupted by the thunder above, when I take my weekly walks around the canals to feed the many swans and geese.

Although retired, we still have an alarm clock - when the low flying planes start up at 6:30 in the morning.

Even watching TV is affected as the thunder of up to 80 decibels blocks out dialogue.

We currently have to wait till Saturday afternoon to snatch a precious 24hr window of peace. But the planes start up again, almost on the dot of 12:30pm Sunday - just in time as we sit down to enjoy our Sunday roast. In fact, mealtimes are the worst, with up to 60 planes flying during the 6 hours of breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I have recently seen an Aircraft Traffic Survey for my area, using ADBS data. It states that: "Between pre-Covid 2019 and August 2023 there appears to have been changes made to the overflying activity that are highly likely to have increased the noise and visual impact"

Was 2.5 - now 4 flights per hour below 3000ft

Was 6 - now 10 hours per day when we get more than 4 flights per hour

Was 4 - now 7 flights 7-8am

The number of flights around 10pm has doubled!

We had 3085 flights overhead during Aug 2023... some days we had nearly 120 flights and the greater volume were via City Airport.

It's clear from the data that we experience more frequent low flying flights around mealtimes, when we are most likely to be socialising.

I was shocked that on 10/8, 6-7pm we had 13 flights in one hour flying below 1945ft for 39-43 seconds in our 1 mile radius airspace.

City Airport measures by passenger numbers not by number of flights. But if they gain more passengers by increasing the number of flights which are only half full or they change schedules to early morning or Saturday afternoon - those on the ground will be further impacted.

If City Airport are EVER given permission to encroach further on early morning, late evening or more weekend flights, Thamesmead and ALL other towns impacted by the noise, pollution and ill health will be devastated.

City Airport do nothing to engage with the community outside of E16, to find out if other areas are impacted by their presence. I found it hard to find who to complain to - even at my local Council. But more people are waking up to this issue and more will come once we spread the word.

Opposition to this appeal is MUCH bigger than LCA hoped, but it shows the strength of feeling that ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Picking up on contributions from other speakers today, I would like to point out that reference to "local people" should include all 16 Londons impacted by the noise. I agree with earlier comments that the Inspector should visit sites at peak periods and not when LCA have no arrivals/departures. I am also skeptical that new generation planes will offer reduced noise.