

Additional Statement from Peter Cutforth, 28 September 2022

My name is Peter Cutforth, I wish to speak on noise and on carbon emissions. I speak as a 30 year resident of St Albans, and as a founding member of the volunteer working group that manages the Heartwood Forest Woodland Trust site located 6 miles south of the airport between Harpenden and St Albans.

I would like to comment briefly first on one astonishing revelation from yesterday's evidence. We heard at the end of the day that Steve Boswell had been arrested and had his computer and phone confiscated by the police, apparently for doing nothing more than repeatedly using the applicant's own noise complaint process. I don't know Steve, but this action by the applicant should be of great concern. Any member of the public who wishes to complain about the airport's noise should know at what point their use of the email complaint process will risk them being subjected to arrest and confiscation of their computer. The applicant was given the opportunity to explain their action yesterday, or to express any contrition or reassurance, but the representatives made no comment. If the representatives appeared uncomfortable about this, we can have some sympathy for their difficult position, they are not responsible for the applicant's apparently disgraceful behaviour. But if nothing more is said or done, it leaves potential complainants uncertain as to how many complaints they can make before they risk arrest, and it sets a terrible precedent for the applicant that it is OK to deter repeated complaints by asking the police to intervene and make an arrest. This should disturb all of us, and is completely unacceptable. The applicant should be given another opportunity to explain their behaviour before appropriate sanctions are considered.

Now to move on to carbon emissions, I just want to highlight one surprise from yesterday's opening submissions by the applicant. In item 48 of the statement by Mr Strachan the main defence of the emissions seems to be that they are too small to materially impact the government's ability to meet net zero. This is disturbing firstly because no increase in emissions should be acceptable no matter how small, and secondly because the government has no ability to meet net zero. It needs the airline industry to reduce demand, because it is increasingly accepted that the airline industry's preferred future solutions of greener jetfuels and carbon offsetting are not credible.

To move on to noise disturbance... (continue presentation as submitted earlier)