



Department
for Transport

The Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Transport Minister for Aviation, International
Trade and Europe

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: lord.ahmad@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Colleagues

CONSULTATION ON NIGHT FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS AT HEATHROW, GATWICK AND STANSTED, 2017 to 2022.

The Government is today launching a consultation on the night flight restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. The current restrictions, which my predecessor announced in July 2014, expire later this year and this consultation details our proposals for the restrictions that should replace them. We are proposing that these restrictions last for five years, and they are therefore separate to Heathrow expansion proposals.

The Government acknowledges that noise at night represents the least acceptable form of aircraft noise, however night flights are important to the economy - they create extra choice for passengers and are crucial for operation of the time-sensitive freight sector. The proposals in our consultation will ensure that we continue to balance these competing interests for the next set of restrictions.

We are proposing a cap set at existing levels for the number of night flights from Heathrow and Gatwick, and will end exemptions for almost 1700 night flights operating out of Stansted by including these in a new cap. This will be a strict limit which the airport cannot exceed. We will also examine options for how we can incentivise the use of quieter aircraft by reducing the noise each airport can make during the night.

Our consultation and the related impact assessment seek views and evidence relating to our proposals that will inform our eventual decision on the restrictions later this year. These documents can be accessed online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-gatwick-heathrow-and-stansted> and consultation responses can be submitted using our online response form at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/J6KX6>.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to share details of this consultation with interested constituents and encourage them to submit their views before the consultation closes on **28 February 2017**.

*Yours sincerely,
T. Ahmad of Wimbledon*

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON