



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
By email only

10th November 2020

Dear Grant,

I am writing to express my concern at the consultation on flight paths for Luton and Stansted Airports which will have a significant and detrimental effect on residents in my constituency.

This disregard for local residents is, sadly, a long-term issue for Bedfordshire residents from the expansion of Luton Airport. There is a growing unease that the benefits of any expansion are to the benefit of Luton Council but the additional costs – financial, congestion and pollution are felt more widely.

The consultation for the proposed new flight paths for London Luton Airport offers two options for flight paths from the east and two options for those from the west, however, it offers no option to object to any changes to the flight paths. I have been contacted by numerous constituents who are unhappy with the proposals and who do not want any of the options. The consultation is seen as a fait accompli; the sort of bureaucratic “box ticking” exercise that was a hallmark of the Blair era.

All the proposed options, if enacted, would result in planes being 'stacked' just 8000ft over St Neots while they queue to land, before travelling down to Luton over multiple towns in my constituency, such as Sandy, Potton, Biggleswade and Arlesey. I understand there is a potential of up to 300 flights being stacked a day.

This would lead to a considerable increase in air and noise pollution in the locality. There is already a significant issue with road congestion and any increase in flights to Luton Airport would only increase these problems.

May I request that you stop the current consultation and urgently review the procedures involved, and then act to ensure that local councils and councillors have more opportunity to provide recommendations and inputs?

Luton Borough Council receive a significant amount from dividends from London Luton Airport Limited enabling it to reap all the benefits and the rest of Bedfordshire do not receive any benefit from it. However, it is all of Bedfordshire that suffer the negative consequences and bear the costs of London Luton airport.

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire
Westminster: 0207 219 8602 Constituency: 01767 313385
Email: richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.richardfuller.co.uk

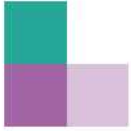


May I request that you investigate the potential for changes in the ownership of London Luton Airport Limited to enable the interests of the wider population of Bedfordshire to be included in the determination of the strategies of the operator, London Luton Airport Operations Ltd., and that the financial benefits of growth from that airport can be more fairly shared with residents of Bedfordshire?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard".

Richard Fuller MP
Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire



Richard Fuller MP
House of Commons
Westminster
LONDON
SW1A 0AA



18th November 2020



Dear Mr Fuller

London Luton Airport

Percival House,
Percival Way, Luton,
Bedfordshire, LU2 9NU

T: +44 (0)1582 405 100

W: london-luton.co.uk

I am writing in response to your open letter to the Secretary of State for Transport, dated 10th November 2020, regarding our joint airspace change proposal with NATS to change the arrival routes into London Luton Airport. Naturally, I am disappointed to read your concerns regarding the consultation process and the involvement of the local community and wanted to address some of the points raised.

Firstly, I'd like to assure you that the views of Bedfordshire residents are hugely important to us. The county is intrinsically linked with the airport and responsible for much of our success, given it is home to the highest concentration of those working directly on site – 2,900 versus Luton's 2,800.

As you may be aware, an airspace change proposal must follow a strict seven stage regulatory process as laid out by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in [CAP1616](#). Public consultation is stage three in this process and follows initial engagement with interested parties right from the start. In this case, Central Bedfordshire Council, the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils, and other interest groups from the area have been actively involved in the development of the proposals.

The CAP1616 process closely follows the Government's guidelines on public consultation and the commonly accepted 'Gunning Principles'. Furthermore there is scrutiny and review at every stage by the independent regulator. All documents are [published online](#) for full transparency.

We understand the concern of local residents, and would encourage them to feed into the consultation, which has already had record levels of participation.

I would be more than happy to arrange a one-to-one briefing with my team to take you through the proposals in detail if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Thompson
Operations Director

cc Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport