



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Holland-Kaye
Chief Executive Officer
Heathrow Airport Ltd
The Compass Centre
Nelson Road, Hounslow
TW6 2GW

14 June 2023

Dear John Holland-Kaye

Re: Constant Heathrow Noise Pollution in Twickenham

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me regarding the near-constant noise pollution they are currently experiencing from Heathrow Airport, including late into the night.

As you will understand, this is causing high levels of annoyance and distress, with local residents' physical and mental health directly affected by their struggle to get to sleep each night. Residents in Twickenham are feeling the impact on their ability concentrate at work and school, impacting on their quality of life and productivity. Some have written to me of the emotional despair this is causing them.

Whilst I and my constituents appreciate that increased exposure to aircraft noise and noise pollution in general is a natural consequence of opened windows during the current period of warm weather, the lack of respite from being directly overflown is quite another matter.

I understand that Heathrow has now been running easterly operations almost constantly for the past three weeks at least. The current inability of the airport to alternate runways during easterly operations means that communities overflown by aircraft taking off on departure flight paths from the southern runway face constant noise pollution with no periods of respite whatsoever. In recent days, this has included a significant number of late runners at past 2300 when local residents and their children are trying to sleep. Residents are also under the impression that planes are flying at lower altitudes over the area.

On behalf of my constituents, I would be grateful to hear what extra measures Heathrow is taking both immediately to attempt to limit the noise pollution affecting constituents under departure flight paths and to prevent late runners, and in the long-term to ensure Easterly Alternation can be introduced without further delay.

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I understand that Heathrow plans to deliver the infrastructure necessary for Easterly Alternation by the end of 2028 as part of its draft Noise Action Plan for 2024-2028. I urge you both to ensure that this goes ahead as swiftly as possible and to give an iron-cast guarantee to residents in Twickenham and across South West London that any, in our view misguided, fresh plan for expansion at the airport will pose no risk of further delay to delivering this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Munira Wilson', written in a cursive style.

MUNIRA WILSON MP
MP for Twickenham