

6 June 2019

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Airspace Modernisation and your request for further information on decibel levels within your constituency.

I completely understand the community interest in noise monitoring and in response over recent years, we have notably increase the number of monitors and continue to develop new tools for communicating noise information.

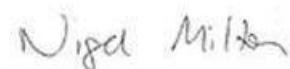
As you are aware, as part of our Airspace and Future Operations Consultation we asked for feedback on noise sensitive locations that consultees believed we should consider as part of our future airspace design. Once we have reviewed and compiled, the information on noise sensitive locations will be used to help us decide where to position noise monitor resource for the remainder of this year and into the next. I can assure you that your representations will be taken into account. To stress, the locations chosen for noise monitor deployment will not be indicative of where flights paths may be in the future – as we do not yet know this – but they will provide us with an enhanced understanding of the noise environment around Heathrow which complements our noise modelling information.

Before we deploy any noise monitors, the strategy and deployment plan will be shared with the Heathrow Community Noise Forum Working Group in accordance of our current terms of reference, and also be presented to the Heathrow Community Engagement Board and the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group for information.

Later this month, we will launch our Airport Expansion Consultation which presents the findings of our Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) assessment, based on the developing indicative airspace design (not the final flight paths). This includes an overview assessment of aircraft noise effects in Surrey Heath, along with a wider set of modelled noise test cases with noise contours. More detailed assessment information will be presented in the final Environmental Statement being prepared for our Development Consent Order submission in 2020.

I appreciate that this will not be all of the information you are looking for but I will be sure to share the findings from the PEIR with you once they are public post 18 June.

Best regards,



Nigel Milton
Director of Communications