

Airspace Regulator (Coordination) Airspace,
ATM and Aerodromes Safety and Airspace Regulation Group
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London WC2B 6TE

Leeds Bradford Airport Airspace change **ACP reference:** ACP-2015-10

11th January 2019

Dear Sirs

The North West Leeds Transport Forum (NWLTF) is writing to you for a second time concerning the proposals which you have received from Leeds Bradford Airport for changes to their flight paths. Their application is now up on your website.

Just to remind you, the NWLTF is a consortium of Residents Associations (West Park, Weetwood, Drummond and Churchwood, Beckett Park, Far Headingley, North Hyde Park) which, between them, represent much of the area which falls under the flight paths to the south and east of the airport.

We have read the LBA application and note with interest what the Airport states in reference to the consultation conducted in 2017. We would like the CAA to know that, although all our NWLTF member resident associations are affected by aircraft noise and, according to noise contour maps produced by LBA, are likely to be even more seriously affected if the planned changes come into effect, none were involved formally in the consultations in 2017 (see list of consultees). As a result most of our residents were completely unaware of the proposed changes to flight paths. Those very few people who did and tried to read the airport's documentation found it largely incomprehensible.

In their application to you, LBA make reference to ongoing, post consultation engagement. You need to know that LBA have not engaged directly with any of our member associations, not even acknowledging their requests to have representation on the Airport Consultative Committee. Furthermore, our suggestion that they might send someone to speak to us at a public meeting was rejected out of hand.

We are concerned about various aspects of the proposals (see our previous communication to you) but are particularly alarmed by the failure of LBA to provide adequate information on the impact that the changes would have on aircraft noise in our area. In particular, they have failed to indicate whether the proposed continuous climb profiles will result in aircraft being higher or lower over our area. We have seen an unscaled diagram which leads us to believe that they will be lower. This would result in increased noise at ground level and, since changes in climb profiles were apparently ignored in the modelling, this would mean that the noise contours included in the consultation material were misleading and overly optimistic.

Two MPs, Alex Sobel and Hilary Benn, and one local councillor, James Gibson, have written to LBA on behalf of their constituents (our residents) asking for more detail about the height and steepness of the proposed flight paths, but none have received the information necessary for themselves or local people to make any assessment as to what the impact could be on their areas (details attached).

We find the whole situation highly disturbing. Despite LBA's claim to have conducted a thorough consultation and to be continuing with post-consultation engagement, key information is, in effect, being refused to us and to our elected representatives. We can only suspect the worst. NWLTF repeat our request that you reject LBA's application.

Yours

Co-chairs NWLTF