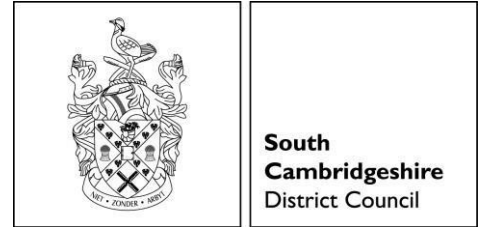


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By Email To:
Civil Aviation Authority
enquiries@caa.co.uk

8th July 2022

Contact: Bridget Smith
Email: cllr.bridgetsmith@scambs.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Flight disturbance over South Cambridgeshire

The Council raised concerns about the potential impacts of the revised flight path and stacking arrangements for Luton Airport over the western part of South Cambridgeshire, in response to the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Public Consultation on Proposed Changes to Airspace held in February 2021 ([Decision - Response to National Air Traffic Services \(NATS\) Public Consultation on Proposed Changes to Airspace \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/decision-response-to-national-air-traffic-services-nats-public-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-airspace)).

In its response the Council concluded that it was “not sufficiently reassured” at that point that the proposal “will not be harmful to the amenity of residents of the district and urges NATS to do more to engage with the Council and concerned local communities”. We also raised concern at the separate parallel process for a Development Consent Order for the expansion of Luton Airport which meant these issues would not be looked at in a more rounded way. Unfortunately, no such further engagement took place.

We are concerned to hear the experience of some of our communities since the changes were implemented earlier this year. In the western part of the district around Gamlingay, Hatley, Croydon and Tadlow villages (amongst others), the aircraft appear to be on their approach paths and therefore much lower than the height expected. Indeed, it is possible to recognise the carrier logos on them because they are so low.

We understood this would be under the new stacking area for Luton Airport, but that flights were expected to be at heights that would not cause any discernible impacts on amenity for communities below. We are also hearing that our communities north of Cambridge on the approach routes to the stacking area are experiencing disturbance from new overhead flights.

I am therefore writing to the CAA seeking a response to the concerns my residents are raising, which does not seem consistent with the aims of the proposals that were consulted on last year. Please advise whether flights are complying with the new arrangements.

If they are not, what measures are planned to address any such lack of compliance? If they are, please confirm that the CAA’s current Post-Implementation Review process will engage with local Councillors and local communities in South Cambridgeshire to hear their experiences and concerns and give serious consideration to further changes and mitigation measures to address adverse impacts on South Cambridgeshire communities.

Yours Sincerely,

Bridget Smith

Cllr Bridget Smith
Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cc: Cllr Tumi Hawkins