

# LAANC

Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council  
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Dear Sir Howard

Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council ( LAANC) Response to Aviation Noise discussion paper 05

Please find attached LAANCs response to the questions in your consultation document.

LAANC is an umbrella local authority organisation which represents the interests of two dozen Local Councils comprising Boroughs, Unitary Boroughs, London Boroughs, County and Parish Councils serving a wide area around Heathrow Airport.

The Constitution of LAANC covers environmental issues as well as aircraft noise and represents a very large community many of whom have direct contacts with Heathrow.

Our evidence refers to an updated review of the ANASE study which LB Hillingdon commissioned on behalf of the Heathrow 2M group of local authorities. This review addresses the criticisms made by others at the time of its publication in 2007.

We believe the results of this latest work provide evidence that challenges the adoption of the 57 decibel contour as set out in the Aviation Policy Framework. The last major review of UK aviation noise metrics was undertaken as part of the proceedings of the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry. Roy Vanderrmeer QC the inquiry inspector felt the evidence against the leq metric and its associated 57 decibel contour was powerful even in 2001 and he said so in his report.

We ask that you review the latest work by the ANASE researchers. We fail to see on the basis of their conclusions how it is possible for policy makers to seek to base a rational future UK aviation policy on this ancient and outdated standard for community annoyance. The UK now virtually stands alone in the EU on its approach to aviation noise and we believe that there is a powerful argument for a new social survey of community attitudes to aircraft noise.

I hope you find our comments helpful. We would of course be very happy to meet with you and your team for further discussions on this subject and to explain further the points we have raised in our responses to your questions.

Yours sincerely

*Malcolm Beer*

Cllr Malcolm Beer  
Chairman Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council