

LAANC

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Mt Colin Dunn
Department for Transport
Great Minster House (1/24)
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7th September 2012

Dear Colin

Heathrow Freedoms Trials - Stage 2 - Night Flights

My committee has recently considered the announcement made by the former Secretary of State on 14th May 2012 to the effect that it is intended later this year to permit limited changes to the Heathrow Night Flights regime.

Our understanding of the proposed changes is that as from November this some aircraft scheduled to arrive after 0600 will be permitted to land between 0530 and 0600 provided that the same number of flights scheduled to arrive between 0430 and 0500 are rescheduled to after 0500. This is expected to delay the onset of noise disturbance to local communities in the early morning period and enhance the resilience of the schedule.

We note that the trials are being overseen by the CAA and that ministers have given assurances that there will no changes to the established working arrangements at Heathrow without a review of the trials and a full public consultation.

The purposed of writing to you at this time is express my committee's concern that with just around eight weeks to go to the start of this initiative there has been virtually no engagement with Heathrow local authorities as to how the above freedoms will work. My members do not see how the changes as described can work when there is only one or at most two flights scheduled to land at Heathrow before 05:00 which are eligible for a potential swop.

My committee would be very grateful for an explanation of these proposals.

Cllr Malcolm Beer

Malcolm Beer

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