

Committee: Stansted Airport Advisory Panel

Date: 27 April 2023

Title: Response to Government's Night-time noise abatement objectives for the designated airports from October 2025

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Summary

1. The government is seeking views on night-time noise abatement objectives at the designated airports, which include Stansted, beyond October 2025. The consultation is for a period of 6 weeks, ending 9 May 2023.
2. Due to the timing of the consultation a special meeting of the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel (STAAP) has been called to formulate a response to the consultation.
3. Following the meeting, officers will seek an executive decision by the leader to adopt and submit STAAP's comments to government on behalf of the council.

Financial Implications

4. None.

Background Papers

5. Open consultation - [Night-time noise abatement objectives for the designated airports from October 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-time-noise-abatement-objectives-for-the-designated-airports-from-october-2025)

Impact

6. As per table:

Communication/Consultation	n/a
Community Safety	n/a
Equalities	n/a
Health and Safety	n/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	n/a

Ward-specific impacts	n/a
Workforce/Workplace	n/a

Situation

7. The Secretary of State, as “competent authority” for the noise designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) is required to define a noise abatement objective for airports where a noise problem has been identified.
8. Owing to increasing evidence nationally with regards to the relationship between aviation night noise and impacts on health and sleep disturbance the government is seeking views and evidence on what night-time noise abatement objectives should be.
9. The current applicable night noise objective for Stansted for the period 2022-2025 is:

“Limit or reduce the number of people significantly affected by aircraft noise at night, including through encouraging the use of quieter aircraft, while maintaining the existing benefits of night flights”.
10. The purpose of a noise abatement objective is to act as the enabling statement that provides the focus for any necessary noise measures.
11. For 2025 onwards the government is proposing:

"Whilst supporting sustainable growth and recognising the importance to the UK of maintaining freight connectivity, to limit and where possible reduce, the adverse effects of aviation noise at night on health and quality of life".
12. **The committee may wish to consider whether or not it agrees with this statement.** In the event it does not, it should consider suggesting an alternative.
13. The wording of the government’s proposed night-time noise abatement objective reflects a movement away from an objective focusing on the number of people affected by noise, to a greater focus on the adverse effects on health and quality of life.
14. Although numbers of people affected could obviously remain an indicator used to measure success against the objective, government has asked for views on what other metrics could be used to measure success against the objective. **The committee may wish to consider suggesting further metrics.**

15. Officers will provide further advice in relation to these two questions at the meeting.

Risk Analysis

16. None identified.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1	1	1	1

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.