From:
To:
Luton Airpo

Subject: Expansion DCO Planning Application Feedback

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It is not consistent or logical to allow the unrestrained expansion of one of the most polluting and unsustainable industries whilst simultaneously restricting licenses for the expansion of North Sea oil. As I write, the USA, China, Japan and Australia are all 'enjoying' record temperatures. This is not a coincidence. The irony of flights roaring over my house returning tourists escaping from fires on Rhodes was not lost on me!

The proposed expansion would not be consistent with the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee. Flying is not currently sustainable and the industry has made very little progress in this regard. Until this is resolved we should be flying less, not more!

The impact on rural communities with previously low ambient noise levels should not be underestimated. Compensation should be paid to those for whom the impact cannot be minimised - other controversial infrastructure projects could benefit from a similar approach. It would reduce people's financial anxieties - would you buy a house under an increasingly busy flight path? - reduce the level of complaint and speed things up. It is a profit driven initiative, after all, nothing to do with public benefit - indeed, rather the reverse.

It is preposterous to consider the expansion in isolation. The manifest problems in relation to the proposed new AD6 flightpath need resolving before any expansion. Luton is already the worst performing London airport in respect of noise pollution and environmental impact, even before any expansion. The airport is not in compliance with the AD6 consultation standards and I would encourage the Inspectorate to fully consider the RELAS report in this regard.

Economic arguments are, if not entirely spurious, weakened by the fact that Luton is to a large extent facilitating holidaymakers to spend money overseas that might otherwise have been spent in the UK.

Neil Barton