

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gatwick Airport](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Gatwick expansion and use of emergency runway
Date: 19 May 2025 14:08:28

Re: Gatwick Airport expansion application

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

We would like to take this last opportunity to express our very strong concerns about the potential expansion of operations at Gatwick Airport, which could add 100,000 flights a year and almost double the number of passengers handled to more than 80 million.

We live about 25 miles from Gatwick, in the Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and on the edge of Ashdown Forest – the wonderful landscape of forest and heathland which, of course, was the setting for A.A. Milne’s globally popular Winnie the Pooh stories. We have lived in this area for 25 years, and have chosen to stay because of the quality of life that access to such beautiful and natural countryside provides. Our children grew up here.

We have chosen to stay despite the noise from aircraft taking off and landing at Gatwick from as early as 5.30am and as late as well after midnight, which has been an increasing problem for as long as we have lived here. Even with the current passenger level of 46 million a year, we suffer, for long periods of most days, the almost continual roar of EasyJet, BA, Tui planes, and the rest, flying over at 6,000 feet and less. If Gatwick were allowed to expand by using its emergency runway as a normal runway, this noise and the environmental pollution that goes with it, would double, and life in this very special part of England would become untenable for many tens of thousands of people.

Noise and pollution caused by Gatwick’s operations do not just affect a handful of homes close to the airport. They affect a very large swathe of the South East of England, including some of the country’s most precious natural habitats in Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

So, to be clear, we are very much opposed to this application getting approval from the Government contrary to the Planning Inspector’s decision to refuse it.

If the worst happens and the Government does approve this application, we strongly request that this should only be done if Gatwick is subject to very strict

environmental and noise controls. The Environmental Agency's noise insulation and access proposals should be applied. There should be strict noise limits throughout the year, not only in peak summer periods, and there should be a process for reviewing these noise limits, as aircraft engines improve and become quieter, with a view to reducing them over time.

With expansion, it is expected that a significantly increased number of long-haul flights will be arriving into Gatwick from Asia and the US. This would mean a substantial growth in flights arriving very early in the morning and very late at night. We would ask that there should be a strictly enforced, total ban on night flights, as there is at Heathrow.

All of us are beneficiaries of economic growth, and as people who enjoy travelling from time to time, we as a family have certainly appreciated the benefits that airports and aircraft bring. Luton Airport will be allowed to grow, and other airports in the Midlands and the north of England might well benefit more clearly from further growth. But we feel very strongly that Gatwick has reached a point where its already rapid growth should be limited. It must not be allowed to get out of hand.

If the Government approves Gatwick expansion, untold and irreversible damage will be done to a unique environment and the quality of life for many, many communities across a large area.

Yours faithfully,

Chris and Jill Logan

