

Night flight press release 26 October 2015

## Night Flight Shock

Nearly 13,000 people were adversely affected by the noise of Gatwick night flights in 2014 - a 15% rise on the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

These shocking figures, in a report by the Civil Aviation Authority, were revealed at a meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee on Thursday 22 October.

The CAA report also shows that the number of people more seriously affected by night time noise doubled in the past year.<sup>2</sup>

Peter Barclay, GACC's representative on the consultative committee, said: 'At the meeting when I drew attention to these figures, members were dismayed. As I pointed out, by increasing the number of night flights, Gatwick are going against Government policy to reduce the number of people affected by noise.'

Peter also drew attention to the colossal increase in the number of complaints to the airport, up from 2,673 in 2011 to 19,277 in the past year.<sup>3</sup> 'This seven fold increase is all the more remarkable because this year Gatwick have instituted a policy of only counting one complaint per person per day. So if someone is annoyed five or ten times a day, and puts in five or ten complaints, it still is only counted as one complaint. This is a fiddle to disguise the true level of anger created by all the new flight paths.'

Brendon Sewill, chairman of GACC, added: 'It is not surprising that pressure is growing for a total ban on night flights. It is well known that being kept awake at night has a serious effect on health.'

A petition to ban Gatwick night flights is on the government website. To sign it just google 'night flight petition'.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This is the number within the 48dB noise contour, that is an average noise of over 48 dB, generally accepted as the area within which there is community disturbance.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/458528/lgw\\_2014\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/458528/lgw_2014_report_final.pdf) paragraph 4.2.1

<sup>2</sup> The number within the 57 dB contour. The 2014 figures include the Gatwick immigration centre for the first time but when that is taken out of the calculation, the rise in the number of residents was still a shocking 66%.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/cttee/gat/gat221015i9.pdf> page 1

<sup>4</sup> <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106462>