

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign

GACC

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Night flights - same number but less noise

New rules for night flights for the next five years have been announced by the Government. [night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted.pdf](#)

Chairman of GACC, Brendon Sewill, said: 'Gatwick has more night flights than any other London airport. We are disappointed that there is to be virtually no reduction in the number of flights. People across Britain are kept awake by aircraft and there is growing evidence that this has a serious impact on health, so GACC's aim is to see a ban on all night flights.'

GACC, however, welcomes and supports the suggestion by the Government that the permitted level of noise at night (the noise quota) at Gatwick may be cut by 20% over the next five years. That will not only have an obvious advantage but it will force airlines to buy and to use quieter aircraft - and that will also have a benefit during the day. 'We will need to fight hard to prevent the aviation rats getting at this plan.'

Also welcome is the proposal to reduce the noise quotas to the current level of use: that will not make any difference to the current situation but will prevent a potential sizeable increase in future years. It is something that GACC has argued for in the past.

Noise at night from aircraft taking off and landing at Gatwick disturbs tens of thousands of people in Crawley and Horley, and in villages around the airport. A new factor is the research by GACC, now accepted by the Government, that noise from aircraft is more disturbing in rural areas - up to 30 miles from Gatwick - where background noise levels are low. 'We believe,' says Sewill, 'that our research project has helped to persuade the Government to cut the noise.'

GACC will be consulting all its members on its more detailed response to the consultation.

GACC, founded in 1968, has as paid-up members over 50 councils and over 40 community groups. We have built a reputation for sound judgement and reliable information and thus have the support of all local Members of Parliament.