

Dear Sir/Madam,

In relation to the discussion paper no. 5, I make the following comments.

Chapter 2

My husband and I have lived in East Sheen directly under the flight path for 9 years. We now have two young children. Even after 9 years we are still disturbed by the aircraft noise. Having read the paper I would say that we certainly suffer from 'annoyance' when the planes are flying overhead. If we are outside talking to someone we have to raise our voices or stop talking. The noise levels of the planes are even worse in cloudy weather. It is an absolute joy when the easterly winds mean we don't have any aircraft landing. We live very close to the railway line and neither this, nor the South Circular, affect us from a noise perspective.

We suffer sleep disturbance regularly every week as we hear the planes that come in to Heathrow at 4.30am. We seem to have more night flights coming directly overhead than previously. If the weather is cloudy, the planes are much louder and having been woken up by them we invariably cannot get back to sleep. My 5 year old tells me when he is woken up from the planes though this is less often than we are as he hears the aeroplanes once they have passed over the house. We hear the aeroplanes on approach. The earlier waking times affect all of our productivity. For my husband, the lack of sleep also increases stress levels. When we have guests to stay we have to provide ear plugs for them. My next door neighbour also uses ear plugs every night.

We are fortunate to have Richmond Park on our doorstep and it is a wonderful place to relax. It should be a place of quiet and peacefulness but the aircraft noise hampers our enjoyment of it.

It should also be recognised that whilst we have the planes directly above us for half of the day, the flight path that aircraft follow for the other half of the day is very near and we are still very much affected from this noise too. So when we do have the aeroplanes flying over us we suffer 'annoyance' from 4.30am to 11pm (I think most night flights occur from 4.30-7am).

Chapter 3 & 4

I don't agree with the way that aircraft noise is currently measured. It should not be averaged out over a 7-11pm timeframe because in the evening between 10-11 it seems much quieter and there are not 2 planes a minute as there are in the day. To assume that if you reduce each individual aircraft noise and double the flights will mean that the annoyance levels will remain the same is just nonsensical. Even if each aeroplane which comes over is quieter, to double the amount would increase annoyance because the noise affect would last twice as long. As it is we are affected from 4.30am-11pm and the flights from 4.30 -7am affect us more as they seem to be even louder and wake us up.

Chapter 5

The idea of spreading the noise around so everyone gets some respite would be of benefit but ultimately this doesn't solve the issue of aircraft noise in a highly populated City. I believe night flights should be very limited (less than now) or there should be a ban on night flights to 6am as these are the flights that wake us up. The flights during the day are purely annoyance unless you need to sleep during the day.

The planes fly over every 2 minutes so I cannot see how Heathrow can provide more flights via an alternative runway unless they are allowed to increase the number of night flights. Residents that live under the flight path suffer enough and I cannot see how this would make a positive

impact on our lives. I completely understand the need for increased capacity at Heathrow but I think a long term solution needs to be found and the airport should be moved to an alternative site where the noise would not affect hundreds of thousands of residents. If such a move to an alternative site was agreed then I would have thought that there may be an interim solution to allow an increase in flights whilst the new airport was being built. In essence I would not be in favour of increasing flights, no matter if there was a reduction in noise, as Heathrow will need further capacity in the future and this issue should be addressed now. Otherwise it will become too much to bear for those of us that live under a flight path.

Yours faithfully,