

6<sup>th</sup> September 2013

## **Airports Commission Discussion Paper 05: Aviation Noise Responses.**

### **Chapter 2 response. Heathrow noise experience**

(i) Increase in noise is already to unacceptable levels. North Chiswick is not directly under the flightpath, but noise has increased most noticeably over the years since we moved here in 1982. We suffer considerably from the constant noise of aircraft landing to the south, and taking off to the north of us.

On return from holiday, the aircraft noise is always the first thing I notice.

(ii) Impact on health. Noise is stressful, and stress is known to be detrimental to health. Gardening, which should be a relaxing activity, becomes stressful when blighted by aircraft noise.

(iii) Impact on sleep. In summer, flights have often continued into the small hours. At all times of year, noise commences around 5 am – once awoken, it is often difficult to get back to sleep.

(iv) Impact on education. As a teenager in the 1960s I attended school in Hampton, and remember the numerous days that lessons were totally interrupted every few minutes by planes overhead.

(iv) Impact on heritage. A long list of historically important and tranquil locations have already been blighted by Heathrow, such as: Chiswick House, Richmond Green, Kew Gardens, Osterley Park, Syon House and Windsor.

### **Chapters 3 and 4 response. Noise measurement**

(i) LAeq method. This is definitely an inadequate method for measuring human reaction. It is not the noise level of one plane that is the problem so much as the endless constant noise of planes every 90 seconds or so most of the day.

(ii) Noise contour. I live beyond the '57 decibels' contour in North Chiswick, but am still affected by noise.

### **Chapter 5. Noise reduction.**

- Less noisy planes would help, but the main problem is the incessant nature of the repetitive noise.
- Spreading the noise around. I do not think this is a good idea. It would just mean everywhere would eventually be blighted by noise.
- Night flights should be banned. They are inhuman in their impact on people living directly under the flight path.
- Noise insulation only helps in the winter months when windows are shut.