

From the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

27 July 2018

Baroness Sugg CBE
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
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SW1P 4DR

Dear Liz

Thank you for arranging the Gatwick roundtable on 11 July, and for your continuing interest in the impact of aircraft noise on our constituencies. We wanted to write to reaffirm the concerns raised at the roundtable regarding the effectiveness of both the existing policy framework, and the ability of the Noise Management Board (NMB) to deliver the improvements we believe are necessary.

Our view remains that the current regulatory structure has not delivered noise mitigation in line with Gatwick's growth, and that the airport's plans for further expansion will likely compound the problem. In addition, though the NMB has achieved some progress, these have not been of the standard expected by our constituents. Indeed, we were particularly concerned to hear the NMB being given full credit for the A320 modifications (a process which began long before it was established), and the equitable distribution of aircraft – when the picture on this is completely unsatisfactory.

Our constituencies suffer the worst of both worlds with regard to overflying. The towns of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge have two of the largest populations under the arrivals swathe, and flights therefore have the potential to disturb the most people. Conversely, we also represent large rural areas with little to no ambient noise, where the roar of jets travels for miles and spoils the tranquillity of local communities.

The Department for Transport has a vital role to play in addressing this problem once and for all, and we very much welcome the opportunity to work with you in achieving this.

with best wish

The Rt Hon Greg Clark
MP for Tunbridge Wells

Tom Tugendhat MBE
MP for Tonbridge & Malling

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