Flight paths: the new threat to our skies

Act now to save your community
Our peace is under threat – again.

Edinburgh Airport is proposing flight path changes that would unleash life-changing noise and pollution. They would affect hundreds of thousands of people and homes in West Lothian and in parts of south Fife and Falkirk, Edinburgh and East Lothian. Valued tranquil open spaces from the Forth Coast to the Bathgate Hills will be transformed by noisy jet aircraft roaring overhead.

The clock is ticking. The airport’s consultation ends on April 30 2017. Please take a little time to find out how your home and your favourite places would be affected by the airport’s latest proposals, and to make your voice heard.

What exactly is happening?

Edinburgh Airport has launched a second consultation on changing its flight path routes – see www.letsgofurther.com.

The first consultation set out vague areas where planes might fly. Now the airport has published its preferred routes. They have published a long and complex mountain of documents. The bottom line is that large communities and quiet rural areas many miles from the runway are set to be blasted by 80 decibels of noise, 70 times a day.

As a guide, 80 decibels is loud enough to stop conversations. It’s equivalent to the noise of busy traffic just 5m away.

Haven’t we been here before?

People in West Lothian will recall the misery of the summer of 2015 only too well. That’s when our lives were disrupted by noise and pollution under an experimental flight path route known as TUTUR.

The airport was forced to abandon that trial, after public uproar and a record number of complaints. But its new proposals effectively revive that route. (It’s now called D HAVEN.)

So our communities face a repeat of the unbearable experience of 2015. But this time, it would be permanent.
Why is the airport doing this?

The airport is giving mixed messages at best. It says this consultation isn’t about airport growth, yet it also says the changes are needed to ‘meet existing and future demand by increasing capacity’. It says it’s about “modernisation” but admits that existing flight paths could be upgraded to cope with new navigation systems.

We say there’s no justification for these changes. The airport is still operating well below capacity. No new flight paths are needed.

The airport is claiming fuel savings on the new routes, but only because it has already switched planes around on existing routes so that most of them now fly longer distances than before.

Communities that were excluded from routes in the first consultation now find proposed flight paths directly above them.

The airport refused to publish responses to that consultation. But even by its own figures, over 70% of West Lothian respondents strongly opposed new flight paths. Those voices have been ignored. We think the airport simply can’t be trusted.
What can we do about it?

It’s critical that we tell the airport, and those with influence over it, that we won’t accept these unjustified plans for expansion.

Please make your voice heard by doing three things:

1. **Respond to the airport’s consultation** before the end of April at [www.letsgofurther.com](http://www.letsgofurther.com). It’s very dense and technical – perhaps deliberately. Don’t let that put you off. It’s vital that the airport hears from as many people as possible.

2. **Tell the Civil Aviation Authority what you think.** The airport needs CAA approval to get its changes through. Contact them at [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk) or use our response card which can be downloaded from [www.edinburghairportwatch.com](http://www.edinburghairportwatch.com).

3. **Lobby your MPs, MSPs and councillors.** The airport sets the terms of its own consultations and doesn’t publish responses. Only our politicians can combat the airport’s arrogance, rein in its plans and curb the damaging effects on our communities. Contact them today! Tell them about your concerns for your home and your family.

More information and latest updates:

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**EDINBURGH AIRPORT WATCH**

Make your voice heard before it’s drowned out by the noise of jet engines.