



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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## **Press Release: 17 February 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Press Release: JUST TWO WEEKS LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON NIGHT FLIGHTS**

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) urges everyone affected by night flights to respond to a government consultation, which closes on Wednesday 3 March.

The government is seeking views on its proposal to extend the current night flight restrictions at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted airports for a further two years. The regime was due to be replaced in 2022 but, if the government has its way, will now run until 2024.

Successive governments have acknowledged that noise from aircraft at night has significant health, economic and other impacts on communities near airports and under flightpaths, and have asserted that they take this very seriously. But there has been no bottom-up review of the UK's night flight regime since 2006. Instead, the government has repeatedly rolled forward night flight limits set many years ago.

GACC chairman Peter Barclay said, "*Night flights are a real problem for many people living around Gatwick and under flightpaths. They disturb sleep, cause stress and can lead to serious real health problems. And they are not essential to the UK economy. Holiday night flights, such as those operated at Gatwick, do not have significant economic or trade value and should cease. The health and other community costs they impose are too high a price to pay for cheap flights for the small section of society who fly frequently.*

*"The reduction in night flights due to the coronavirus pandemic has been widely welcomed in local communities and the government should be taking steps to ensure they are eliminated, rather than permitting the airports to reintroduce them at scale when they please. We urge everyone affected by night flights to respond to this consultation – and we've provided guidance on how to do so."*

The consultation is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-between-2022-and-2024-plus-future-night-flight-policy>

GACC's guidance on how to respond is here:

<http://www.gacc.org.uk/resources/GACC%20RESPONSE%20TO%20NIGHT%20FLIGHT%20CONSULTATION%20QUESTION%206-12%20FINAL.pdf>

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors:**

**(1).** The consultation has two parts.

- By 3 March the Department for Transport is seeking views on its proposals to extend the current night flight restrictions, set in 2017, for an additional two years from October 2022.
- By 31 May it is seeking wider views on its national night flight policy and the structure of night flight restrictions beyond 2024.

GACC is responding to both parts.

For further information contact Sarah Finch on 07870 823485 or email [info@gacc.org.uk](mailto:info@gacc.org.uk).

*GACC's aims are to protect and improve the environment in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport and to diminish any wider environmental impact of its operations, with particular regard to noise, congestion, air quality, light pollution and climate change.*