

12th December 2014

Mr Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Sir

Heathrow Airport: Noise Preferential Routes Compliance

I understand that your Department, and ultimately yourself as Minister of State, are responsible for ensuring airline and airport compliance with the "Heathrow Airport – London (Noise Abatement Requirements) Notice 2010". This notice was published by the then Secretary of State for Transport in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 78 (1) and (12) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

I am writing this letter to advise you that evidence suggests repeated breaches of the requirements under the notice are being made as a matter of routine by the airline operators, with the tacit support of Heathrow Airport Ltd and NATS. This evidence has been presented to Heathrow at a recent meeting chaired by Mr Michael Gove MP.

I understand that compliance with the restrictions requiring use of the Noise Preferential Routes is overseen by your Department (DfT) and the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (HACC). However this oversight I am advised by the CAA is based on information provided to DfT and HACC by Heathrow Airport Ltd.

Can you please confirm what procedures and processes DfT has in place to ensure independent verification of the data supplied by the party you are overseeing? I would also recommend you make enquiries of Heathrow Airport Ltd and the Civil Aviation Authority about the massive increase in the level of complaints during a recent trial of GPS based navigation which concentrated flights outside the Noise Preferential Routes.

Routine breaches of the statutory requirements are in defiance of Parliament and thereby the will of the people. With the approaching election I would suggest Ministerial action in respect of a commercially driven abuse of important

regulations would be viewed positively. The residents in the Windsor, Ascot, Bagshot, and Camberley areas feel very strongly on this issue.

I look forward to receiving a clear and factual response to the question I have asked in the fourth paragraph above.

Yours sincerely

Peter K Churchley