

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA190717-0888

1 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to the Mayor, received 16 July, regarding aircraft noise. Under the Freedom of Information Act, you requested the release of the following information:

Our response to your request is as follows:

- 1. What specifically is the Mayor (not TFL or another agency) doing to address the devastating impact of noise pollution from planes flying over central and east London on landing approach to Heathrow?*

The Mayor shares your concerns about the impact of flights over London, and the disturbance that this can cause to residents. He has opposed any expansion to Heathrow Airport and disagrees with the Government's preferred option for a third runway at Heathrow. The environmental consequences, including negative impacts on noise, are fundamental to his opposition. Night flights are particularly disruptive to those who reside nearby to airports or flight paths. The Mayor maintains the view that Government should be ambitious in its plans to reduce the negative impact of night flights.

The Mayor raised his concerns about the impact of Heathrow expansion in his response to the Government's consultation on the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on airport capacity in the South East. This included a technical paper on the impact of noise. You can find the Mayor's full response, including TfL's technical analysis of the noise implications, on TfL's website: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/aviation#on-this-page-1>.

The Mayor is responding to consultations related to UK aviation and the Heathrow expansion in particular. The Mayor, his Deputy Mayor for Transport, Valerie Shawcross, and Transport for London, as the Mayor's transport authority, have responded to a number of recent consultations. The details of these consultation responses can be found at: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/aviation#on-this-page-1>.

The Mayor has personally submitted the following:

- A response to the Government's consultation on the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on airport capacity in the South East, available at: <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/response-to-the-nps-consultation.pdf>
 - A response to the Transport Committee's inquiry in to the draft National Policy Statement (NPS), available at: <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/mayoral-response-to-the-transport-select-committee-on-heathrow-nps.pdf>
 - A response to the Government's consultation on night flights, available at: <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/mayoral-response-to-night-flights-consultation-170227.pdf>
2. *When did he last address the matter directly with (a) the Department for Transport, (b) the CAA, (c) NATS (d) Heathrow? What was the response from each of these organizations?*
- a. The Mayor's response to the NPS consultation (referred to above) was the last time he addressed this matter directly with the DfT. We do not have a response to the Mayor's consultation response, which we expect will be addressed in DfT's consultation report.
 - b. The GLA does not hold this information.
 - c. The GLA does not hold this information.
 - d. The GLA does not hold this information.
3. *Please provide (a) dates of any meetings and who they were with (names, job titles and organisations), and (b) copies of the Mayor's correspondence and any replies.*

In regards to aviation matters, the Mayor has directed Transport for London, as his transport authority, and Valerie Shawcross, his Deputy Mayor for Transport, to liaise with key aviation bodies on his behalf. Details of the Deputy Mayor's engagements with those organisations you have requested is listed in Appendix 1.

In line with our publication scheme, the Mayor's diary is published on our website twice a year. The GLA has already published the Mayor's diary covering the period May to October 2016. The next publication of the diary is due soon. <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/publication-scheme/mayor-londons-diary>

The Mayor's key engagements are also published in the Mayor's report which forms part the meeting papers at each Mayor's Question Time. <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListMeetings.aspx?CatId=12932&bcr=1>

Regarding your request to discuss this matter with the Mayor in person, I can confirm that the Mayor does not hold surgeries. You may like to contact your local Assembly Member to take questions to him at Mayor's Question Time (MQT). MQT takes place every month with answers to each question published on the Greater London Authority website soon after. You can find out more information about this on our website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/questions-mayor>. As an alternative, you could personally raise your concerns through People's Question Time which take place twice a year. You can find more information about these events on our website too: <https://www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/peoples-question-time-all-you-need-know>.

You have raised a number of concerns related to noise and flight paths over London. The Mayor will continue to press Government to properly address the impacts airport operation has on hundreds of thousands of Londoners. However, the Mayor's formal powers on aviation are limited. Therefore, I urge you to voice your concerns directly to Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Aviation, to ensure your views are heard.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to the Mayor about your concerns. If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Paul Robinson
Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>