

Consultation: Night Flight Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Stage 1 Consultation.  
Response from: Ealing Fields Residents' Association, Ealing ([info@efra.org.uk](mailto:info@efra.org.uk))  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## **Background**

The Ealing Fields Residents' Association (EFRA) represents households in South Ealing sharing a boundary with Brentford. EFRA's primary concern is over aircraft movements in and out of Heathrow. With regard to night flights, currently the EFRA area particularly suffers from take-offs after 11.30pm and before 6am and some residents are also disturbed by landing noise.

## **Primary position**

Heathrow is located in a heavily populated area. Any Government decisions on the regulation of traffic in and out of this airport must take account of that. Studies show that night flights are detrimental to the health of residents that suffer constant disturbance from aircraft noise. The Consultation recognises this.

EFRA therefore favours a total ban on night flights between 11pm and 6am and a progressive reduction of aircraft movement from 6am to 7am.

## **Fall-back position**

If there is a temporary need to continue with a certain quota of night flights, for example during a transition period while phasing out night flights, EFRA asks the Government to consider the following noise reduction measures addressed in the Consultation paper:

1. Implement the *WHO Guidelines for Community Noise*, for example by using quieter aircraft.
2. Start the night quota period 30 minutes earlier at 11pm rather than 11.30pm as at present.
3. Introduce a special duty on night flights so as to discourage passengers to travel during the night.