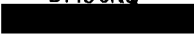


ex Reb 16219

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30 Nov 04

Mrs. Angela Smith M.P.

Minister for the Environment

I note that you are seeking views about the future of Belfast City Airport.

With the exception of a few years away in the Army, I have lived all my life within two miles of this airport, living in five different suburbs. Indeed , I was around before the airport!

I have known it as a works airfield, a war-time RAF Station , an RNAS Station, an RAF Maintenance Unit and a civil airport. In that long time I cannot recall a fatal flying accident in or near the airport.

By far the noisiest periods in my memory were the war years 1939-45 and the <sup>1970s</sup> ~~1990s~~ when the Maintenance Unit tested the engines of RAF Buccaneers up to maximum revs, often at night.

The works airfield and its successors brought prosperity to East Belfast and the current range of civil airline services have brought convenience to the Belfast and Co. Down areas.

I respect the views of the bona fide resident groups but I fear that as in so many environmental issues, the fanatical do-gooder lobby will have much greater influence than their numbers deserve.

Yours faithfully

LS DUNCAN

PRIVATE OFFICE

07 DEC 2004

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