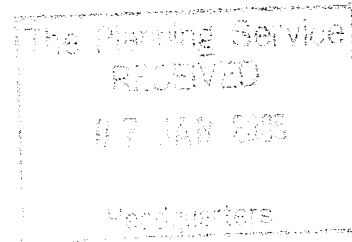


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04/01/05

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest about the proposed increase in passenger numbers for Belfast City Airport. Since it opened as a commercial airport, supposedly ironclad guarantees about flight restrictions, passenger numbers and size of aircraft have been repeatedly broken. There appears to me to be a deliberate long-term plan to incrementally turn BCA into a full scale 24 hour international airport while the health and quality of life of the citizens of Belfast count for nothing.

This would be bad enough but could I point out that we already have an excellently equipped international airport, completely underused, only 12 miles from the city centre at Aldergrove. This airport has been in existence for over 50 years and is sited in a very sparsely populated area. We are not living in the South East of England where there is an enormous and growing under capacity and consequently tremendous pressure on existing airports. Belfast International could comfortably handle all Northern Ireland's air traffic for the foreseeable future and any arguments that competition from BCA drives down prices can be refuted by looking south where Dublin airport with a monopoly of air traffic has the lowest airfares out of Ireland. Competition comes from airlines and not airports.

Whenever the present owners bought BCA they knew the restrictions on it and it is galling to hear them talk unctuously about preserving the environment while simultaneously trying to bring in Ryanair and Easyjet. A line should be drawn in the sand to stop this relentless pressure to expand the airport while completely ignoring the consequent pollution and noise inflicted on the people of the city and surrounding areas.

All jet aircraft should be banned from the City Airport and relocated to the International. The City Airport should be reserved for small commuter aircraft as we were originally promised and Belfast spared any further intrusion on the quality of life here.

We have no reason to trust any promises that might be made given our experiences of those that were made in the past. The airport breaches the curfew on average more than twice a day and the guarantee that only 30% of the air traffic going to and from BCA should go over Belfast has never been met. No compelling reasons exist, social or business, to support the application to increase passenger numbers and I would urge you to reject it out-of-hand. If you do not you will be rewarding commercial greed at the expense of the health and welfare of the people of Belfast.

Yours faithfully,

BASIL HUTTON