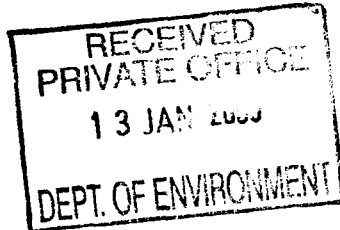


Angela Smith MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8GB

32 South Parade  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2GP

11 January 2005



Dear Ms Smith

**Re: Contribution to the Public Consultation on the Review of the Planning Agreement with Belfast City Airport**

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed relaxation of the operating limits of the Airport, and especially to any raising of the limit on the annual number of seats to be sold by flight operators. This will inevitably lead to an increase in the volume of traffic and probably the size of aircraft flying over the city.

The noise created by large aircraft passing overhead at peak times is already disturbing. I have felt obliged to write to the Airport a few times in the past regarding the hazards caused by the frequent low altitude of descending aircraft.

I also object to the large number of flights made outside permitted times – over 600 in 2003 alone. I understand that such flights are supposedly only to be made 'in exceptional circumstances'. The airport appears to be blatantly disregarding the current planning agreement in its interpretation of this.

I consider that the airport's request to increase the number of seats for sale should be rejected. I call for a full review of the current planning arrangements governing the Airport, including; the number of air traffic movements; the number of seats offered for sale, late flights; noise monitoring; and safety and environmental risks. I think it would be found that the Airport already adopts a very cavalier attitude towards the people of South and East Belfast in its interpretation of the existing arrangements. They should not be expected to tolerate official approval for a proposal that will lead to the worsening of a situation that is serious enough already.

Yours sincerely,

F J McGlade