

HCNF action (January 2016) – Isobel Pastor (Department for Transport)

2.2 **Heavily populated areas:** Isobel Pastor (IP) confirmed that she would circulate a formal response regarding what DfT considers to constitute a heavily populated area. **ACTION IP**

DfT definition:

“Whilst there is no standard definition of what is meant by ‘densely populated’, options for airspace changes are assessed in terms of how many people are affected. The DfT would expect the CAA to ensure sponsors use evidence and sound judgement to avoid areas with high population densities as far as practicable in order to minimise the number of people significantly affected by aircraft noise.

Where it is not possible to avoid areas with high population densities, or it is not clear which option would lead to the fewest people significantly affected by aircraft noise, the Government would expect sponsors to engage with local communities and try to find a locally agreeable solution that minimises the noise impacts on people from aircraft below 7,000ft”.