



Community Noise Forum April 2015.
Potential options to approach verification of the noise and track data

13 April 2015

Heathrow
Making every journey better

Context

- Over the past few years there have been a number of airspace and operational trials conducted at Heathrow.
- Increasingly a number of residents have raised concerns regarding the accuracy of the data and the extent to which it reflects people's experience of noise.
- This is a common issue for airports worldwide. Heathrow believes that building trust in the data is key for constructive discussions regarding future airspace planning.
- These slides have been prepared to facilitate discussion at the April Community Noise Forum (CNF) as to how best verify the accuracy of the noise and track keeping systems (NTK) used by Heathrow to monitor and assess aircraft performance. They are in no way intended to be exhaustive and we welcome other suggestions by Forum members.

In order to build confidence there are a number of key areas the Forum needs to address.

1. Accuracy of data/systems.

- The first step is to agree how the data should be verified that seeks to assure the accuracy of the flight track data provided by Webtrak and the NTK systems used to carry out analysis. This should include verification of noise monitoring/modelling systems/processes.

2. Changes to flight paths/routings

- Alongside it should be agreed the parameters of studies that should be carried out once the data has been verified. This will establish whether there have been historic changes to flight paths.

3. Communication of current and future operations

- Finding the best ways to explain Heathrow's operations simply and accessibly – now and in the future.

How should the Forum undertake the work?

There are choices as to how the work could be managed by the Forum ..for example

- Agree and manage the work at each meeting of the **Community Noise Forum**
- Establish **sub group(s) of the Community Noise Forum** to meet between full meetings of the Forum. The sub group(s) would lead on particular areas, and then report and recommend proposals to the main Forum for approval. This may expedite the delivery of the matters for consideration.
- Appoint a **respected 3rd party** figure to scope and undertake the work with technical support that reports back to the Community Noise Forum.
- Other suggestions...?

Step 1: Data verification – who could carry out this work?

Some options

- **Overseas independent expert body** – the forum could invite the equivalent of the CAA from overseas to undertake the work – for example Airservices Australia or the Dutch National Aerospace Laboratory NLR who have advised a “community audit team” in the Netherlands.
- **Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)** – the CAA is independent of the Airport and has extensive experience of noise monitoring / modelling and flight track systems. They have been used in other countries to undertake such work. The CAA already play an important role in the verification of the noise and flight path systems and are world recognised experts in noise modelling.
- **Appoint an external consultancy** – the Community Noise Forum or a nominated sub group could be tasked with scoping a verification requirements document for open tender by appropriate consultancies.

Next Steps

- To discuss and agree an approach at the next Community Noise Forum (April 2015)
- To progress the agreed approach and timescales for areas to be considered ahead of the next meeting. (TBC)