

Richard Fuller MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
By email only

10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Grant,

I am writing to express my concern at the consultation on flight paths for Luton and Stansted Airports which will have a significant and detrimental effect on residents in my constituency.

This disregard for local residents is, sadly, a long-term issue for Bedfordshire residents from the expansion of Luton Airport. There is a growing unease that the benefits of any expansion are to the benefit of Luton Council but the additional costs – financial, congestion and pollution are felt more widely.

The consultation for the proposed new flight paths for London Luton Airport offers two options for flight paths from the east and two options for those from the west, however, it offers no option to object to any changes to the flight paths. I have been contacted by numerous constituents who are unhappy with the proposals and who do not want any of the options. The consultation is seen as a fait accompli; the sort of bureaucratic “box ticking” exercise that was a hallmark of the Blair era.

All the proposed options, if enacted, would result in planes being 'stacked' just 8000ft over St Neots while they queue to land, before travelling down to Luton over multiple towns in my constituency, such as Sandy, Potton, Biggleswade and Arlesey. I understand there is a potential of up to 300 flights being stacked a day.

This would lead to a considerable increase in air and noise pollution in the locality. There is already a significant issue with road congestion and any increase in flights to Luton Airport would only increase these problems.

**May I request that you stop the current consultation and urgently review the procedures involved, and then act to ensure that local councils and councillors have more opportunity to provide recommendations and inputs?**

Luton Borough Council receive a significant amount from dividends from London Luton Airport Limited enabling it to reap all the benefits and the rest of Bedfordshire do not receive any benefit from it. However, it is all of Bedfordshire that suffer the negative consequences and bear the costs of London Luton airport.

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**May I request that you investigate the potential for changes in the ownership of London Luton Airport Limited to enable the interests of the wider population of Bedfordshire to be included in the determination of the strategies of the operator, London Luton Airport Operations Ltd., and that the financial benefits of growth from that airport can be more fairly shared with residents of Bedfordshire?**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard".

Richard Fuller MP  
Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire