

# GLASGOW AIRPORT AIRSPACE CONSULTATION

Objection from Transform Scotland

13 April 2018

## 1. Introduction.

Transform Scotland is the national alliance for sustainable transport. We campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone. Our diverse membership brings together public, private and third sector organisations from across Scotland. We are a registered charity, politically independent and strictly science-based. We are a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposals put forward by Glasgow Airport on changes to flight paths to and from Glasgow. We hope you find our comments to be a constructive contribution to any future decision-making on flight paths and airport capacity at Glasgow Airport.

## 2. Glasgow Airport flight path modernisation: Transform Scotland's view.

We have some concerns with the proposals to modify the flight paths used when approaching and leaving Glasgow Airport.

We must express our disappointment over the rather narrow focus of the consultation. The decision not to consult on the growth of the airport in this consultation is misleading and does not allow for due consideration of potential issues arising from the proposals set out in the consultation paper. The consultation alludes to the fact that changing the flight paths "allow for... greater capacity and growth". Revising flight paths and growing the airport therefore cannot be viewed in isolation.

Increased air traffic arising as a result of revised flight paths to and from Glasgow Airport will lead to increased emissions from aviation. Aviation already accounts for over 25% of carbon emissions from the transport sector in Scotland. Any increase in air traffic would need to be met with significant reductions in the carbon emissions associated with aviation; however, little progress has been made in recent years to improve efficiency or reduce the aviation industry's dependence on carbon-intensive fossil fuels. As such, an increase in flight traffic cannot be justified if Scotland is to make necessary reductions in its greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years. Furthermore, whilst we appreciate the reference to minimising emissions as a result of changing flight paths due to increased fuel efficiency, it must be noted that any reductions in CO2 emissions would be offset by future growth in traffic to and from Glasgow Airport.

We are pleased to see that consideration is being given to the potential impacts of noise pollution arising from changes to flight paths. This is a very serious issue which needs to be fully considered, as it has the potential to affect large numbers of people. Whilst it is promising to read that "fewer people will be exposed to aircraft noise than has historically been the case", it is

disappointing to read that some people in around Glasgow Airport will be subject to noise pollution on a more regular basis. It is of vital importance that these people (and all members of the public) should be made fully aware of these changes and given full opportunity to comment on and find out more about these changes. It is important that the views of the public are fully considered in this consultation process and that this is not simply done as a 'box ticking' exercise.

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## Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport

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