

Public complaints: summary

Key points:

- All of the complaints except one were about the changes at Stansted route. The other was about the introduction of point merge for London City Airport.
- Most people complained about the change in the number of overhead flights they now experience. This is a mixture of the movement of daytime flights on the Dover SID onto the Clacton SID, and the overall increase in the volume of traffic at Stansted.
- People say they now experience more continual and concentrated overflight now than previously. They say they currently have flights overhead every 90 seconds to 2 minutes particularly at peak times. They begin very early in the morning and continue until late in the evening, with some being heard in the early hours of the night.
- The main concern people have is the noise of flights, as well as noise now being more continual some also say that the planes are lower than in the past. As a solution to the latter it was asked whether they be climbed quicker.
- The impact of aircraft is more when people are likely to be using their gardens or have their windows open. The effects are not being also to sleep or hold conversations outside. With regard to the former there were concerns that young children are particularly affected with knock-on impacts on their education.
- The low background noise of living in a rural area means that aircraft noise is more impactful than it would be in a more urban environment.
- As well as noise some people raised concerns about the effects of emissions on air quality.
- Both noise and emissions are felt to have detrimental health effects.
- Some correspondents said they had moved to a rural area because it was quiet. The LAMP(1a) change has made it less tranquil and has affected house prices.
- One proposed mitigation measure suggested by the campaign group Stop Stansted Expansion is to make greater use of runway 04 to provide respite for those living under runway 22 traffic. While some agree with this proposal, others disagree. SSE also made several other proposals (see their full submission).
- There was a more general point about whether dispersal and/or respite might be possible to mitigate the noise impact.
- There were also suggestions to move the route so it passes over open countryside rather than villages.
- Some people said that they were unaware of original LAMP(1a) consultation saying it was not well communicated and they would have responded that if they had known.