



Department  
for Transport

## Noise Policy- Proposals in Aviation 2050 consultation (December 2018-June 2019)

- ▶ The Green Paper set out various proposals to mitigate the impact of aviation noise, including:
  - ▶ Setting a New Objective;
  - ▶ National Indicator;
  - ▶ Noise Caps;
  - ▶ Airport Noise Reduction Plans;
  - ▶ Guidance for Housebuilding;
  - ▶ Improved Information for Home Buyers;
  - ▶ Improved Aircraft Operations;
  - ▶ Statutory enforcement powers for ICCAN or CAA;
  - ▶ Improved Noise Insulation Schemes.



## Overview of Responses

- ▶ The Consultation received over 800 responses in total.
- ▶ The topic of noise was widely discussed amongst respondents, with over 500 responses mentioning noise policy.
- ▶ Half of all individuals discussed noise in their replies.
- ▶ Industry stakeholders express general approval towards the Government's proposals on noise, but express reservations in relation to mandatory insulation schemes.
- ▶ Environmental and Community groups express general approval toward the Government's proposals, but emphasise that local concerns are often directed at flight frequency and concentration of air traffic rather than raw noise levels.



## Analysis of Responses- Noise Indicator / Noise Caps

- ▶ Airports mostly welcome the use of a “noise cap” as a mechanism to bring certainty. However, further clarity is required.
- ▶ Airlines support “noise caps”, but believe this should not limit passenger or flight movements.
- ▶ Stakeholders mostly agree that “noise caps” should be based on health measures rather than population exposed, however some stakeholders believe they should be based on geographical contours.
- ▶ Environmental and Community groups do not support the concept of ‘paying for growth’.
- ▶ Stakeholders mostly support the proposal for a new National Indicator, and agree that Quota Count is an appropriate metric.
- ▶ Local Communities believe that a new national indicator should show the number of people adversely affected by noise.
- ▶ There is general agreement that ICCAN should support the development of this policy.



## Analysis of Responses- Airport Noise Reduction Plans

- ▶ Stakeholders are mostly in support of the proposal to require major airports to commit to future noise reduction in the form of a plan, however Airports request further information on how this would work in practice.
- ▶ Community groups suggest using N-above metrics as part of this process.
- ▶ Environmental groups are generally supportive of this proposal, but express concern that this relies too heavily on local authorities.
- ▶ Other Industry Stakeholders suggest the White Paper should set out how Noise Reduction Plans should be enforced.



## Analysis of Responses- Housebuilding / Noise insulation schemes

- ▶ Many stakeholders expressed concern at the lack of planning controls, and called for stronger policy to avoid new homes being exposed to the highest levels of aircraft noise.
- ▶ Airports believe there is a role for ICCAN in developing this policy.
- ▶ Many stakeholders express reservations about the evidence base underpinning the change in noise insulation policy threshold and Airports are concerned about the financial impact of this.
- ▶ Additionally, Airports expressed concern at the proposal for mandatory insulation for households impacted by airspace change.
- ▶ Further suggestions were made by stakeholders, such as disclosure obligations and mandatory Noise Exposure Certificates.
- ▶ There is general agreement that noise insulation policy needs to be clear, predictable and long term.



## Analysis of Responses- General Comments

- ▶ Most Airports express a strong warning against applying a 'one size fits all' approach to noise policy, with agreement it is best managed at a local airport level.
- ▶ Other Industry Stakeholders emphasise that industry wants certainty, and warn against 'moving goalposts'.
- ▶ Many stakeholders request greater transparency in relation to the reasoning behind certain decisions.
- ▶ Many Individuals wish to see a clearer set of noise targets or limits, with Environmental groups seeking greater transparency in relation to the decision not to follow WHO guidelines.



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## Previous Focus Groups

**We held three focus groups in Summer 2018 which informed the preparation of the Green Paper:**

- ▶ Growth, noise reduction and overall policy.
- ▶ Noise controls, enforcement and compliance.
- ▶ Noise mitigation and compensation.

**Thinking of the landscape three years on:**

- ▶ What has changed?
- ▶ Would your response to the Green Paper consultation still hold?
- ▶ What areas would benefit from further discussion?



## Possible areas for discussion in new focus groups

- ▶ What are the effects of the pandemic on noise forecasts?
- ▶ To what extent has the aviation industry's capacity to address noise been impacted by the pandemic?
- ▶ Are the challenges still the same as those which the Green Paper proposals were intended to address?
- ▶ How can we build on the areas where there was a consensus in principle, e.g. noise indicator, noise caps, noise reduction plans.
- ▶ Can we agree on areas for further research?