



**Department
for Transport**

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From the Parliamentary
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Dear Sally

Thank you for your letter of 1 June to Patrick McLoughlin setting out the concerns of community groups around Heathrow, Gatwick and London City Airports regarding current airspace management and air traffic control arrangements. I am responding as Minister with responsibility for aviation.

Your letter raises a number of significant issues. I am in no doubt about their importance to communities affected by aircraft noise and we will want to consider these carefully, not least because some of the proposals have fundamental implications for policy and for the industry. For this reason I hope you will appreciate that I am unable to give you an immediate Government response. In the meantime I know that you and some of your co-signatories have separately had meetings with my officials to make them aware of the issues and I understand that Aviation Director Tricia Hayes has also agreed to meet shortly with Charles Lloyd.

On the proposals in your letter, I would also note that the industry is starting to address some of these, such as the A320 whine and trials of steeper descent paths. I will write to you again once we have had time to consider the issues more fully.

I am copying this letter as yours to the Chair of the CAA and to John Stewart and would be grateful if you would arrange circulation to your other co-signatories.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT GOODWILL