

PCAA Noise Report January 2023

(Updated with notes from the AEF meeting on 31st January 2023)

Bristol Airport

Environmental Effects Working Party (EEWP) mtg held 10th Jan 2023

- Presentation from Nick Williams of Bickerdike Allen Partners LLP on noise analysis (BAL's noise consultants). No particular surprises in the presentation. I can ask to make the slides available if required.
- Noise insulation scheme threshold unlikely to be reduced from the current 57dB level to 54dB (it was noted that the government level is 63dB.)
- I raised an interesting conclusion from a new CAA noise report (CAP 2250, see below) that the perception of aircraft noise improves amongst residents if respite options are being used by an airport. What could be done at BAL? James took an action to see.
- Noise complaints for 2022 (YTD as the data has about a month lag) are at 405, compared to 146 in 2021. Day noise complaints dominate, followed by night noise. No real conclusions (or actions?) were drawn from this.
- BAL need to submit a revised noise action plan by Sept 2023 (to be published in Feb 2024). Of the 19 actions in the current NAP 14 are complete, 4 are on track and 1 is outstanding (A/C fee differentials). Progress on these is reported in the Annual Monitoring Report. There will be an opportunity for public participation / feedback for the new NAP in Q2 2023.
- Coordinated airport application - some feedback has been had from DfT and likely to be another public consultation.

CAA Noise Reports

A number of new/updated noise reports have been published by the CAA:

CAP 2250 - Survey of Noise Attitudes 2014: Aircraft Noise and Annoyance, Further Analysis

This report has carried out further analysis on the data gathered for the CAP 1506 report, specifically: runway alternation and respite; annoyance responses of dwellings with and without a garden; green spaces; dwelling type and ownership; complaints; working at home, and; spontaneous dislikes.

CAP 2251 - Survey of Noise Attitudes 2014: Aircraft Noise and Sleep Disturbance, Further Analysis

Again, using the data gathered for CAP 1506, further analysis on sleep disturbance, taking into account the two approaches for quantifying sleep disturbance of average noise dose (UK standard approach), or aircraft noise events (Basner et al study). It was found that averaging the night-time noise exposure correlates with the self-reported sleep disturbance results.

CAP 2398 - Aircraft Noise and Health Effects - a six monthly update

A review of published research from March - September 2022. A wide range of work was reviewed and summarised, however no recommendations were made to change any of the existing approaches.

CAP 2370 - Aircraft Noise and Sleep Disturbance: An update (2014-2022)

An update of the main findings on aircraft noise and sleep disturbance between 2014-2022

AEF Meeting on Airspace & Noise - 31st January 2023

The meeting essentially had two parts: 1) a review of activities in 2022, and 2) proposed priorities for 2023.

For the 2022 review:

Recognised that government ministers are not focussed on noise, more on growth of the aerospace industry. Civil servants subsequently act under their direction. Due to the pandemic, the last few years has seen a reduction in noise, hence perhaps this is not seen as a priority?

DfT

- Committed to update the overarching noise policy in Autumn 2023
- Will consult on its noise objective in 'early 2023'
- Airspace Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) sub group to review health impact research

Airspace modernisation framework and process

- AER forum response to CAA
- Extensive discussions with DfT/CAA
- e.g. growth of airports should reduce noise and how this is measured and enforced.

Night flights

- Arrangements to continue as-is until 2025
- AEF working to have this reviewed, with better accounting

2023 priorities:

- Continuing engagement with the DfT and CAA on noise policy and regulation (including night flights and the framework/processes for airspace modernisation) and contributing to a stronger framework
- Seeking wider support for stronger noise policy and regulation with other stakeholders, such as relevant local authorities
- Plan to share good practice and lessons across ANCF groups, for example on airport expansion inquiries, noise envelopes and noise action plans
- We will continue with political instability, with people already thinking about and strategising for an election; some constituency boundaries are also changing, further adding to the tension. Labour is currently seeking input to policy as part of a

consultation, which may provide an opportunity to influence their policy and environmental approach (<https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/npf-consultation-2023>)