

Press Release – Immediate 26th March 2008

The DEMAND Campaign launches a Downing Street e-petition against Night Flights at East Midlands Airport

Steve Charlish Chairman of the DEMAND Campaign group (Demand East Midlands Airport is Now Designated¹) “said we are asking the Prime Minister to limit night flying at EMA, and are asking that the restrictions already applicable to the big three London Airports Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, are applied at EMA.

East Midlands Airport has been allowed massive expansion of night flights which exceed acceptable levels to the local community who bear the burden of noise blight by living underneath the flight paths.

EMA now has more night flights than Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted².

East Midlands Airport has marketed itself to potential air operators as a night operation airport that is unconstrained and able to accommodate aircraft that may be unable to operate at other airports because of local curfews and other noise restriction rules. It is therefore easier for noisy cargo aircraft to use EMA with aircraft age ranging from 25-50years old.

At East Midlands Airport a noise regime exists with no planning limits or Central Government restrictions the community is therefore at the mercy of the Airport’s meaningless voluntary code of noise restrictions (10 point noise plan, arguably a set of rules with no tangible parameters) allowing all types of aircraft to fly through the entire Night Period.

Noisy Cargo aircraft are therefore drawn to EMA because of the lack of restrictions and constraints at the airport and the average age of the cargo aircraft, that operate there at EMA

It all adds up to unacceptable levels of community blight. It is time for central Government to set limits and reduce further damage to the community. To find an acceptable Night Flights limit putting the community first and stopping the steam roller of ‘Night Activity’ expansion from its owners Manchester Airport Group”.

The petition can be found at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/peacefulnight/>

the petition reads:

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to Restrict Night Flights at East Midlands Airport using section 78 (Designation) of the 1982 Civil Aviation Act to restrict the amount of Night Flights We are asking for Regulatory powers to be applied at East Midlands Airport, with regard to Night Flights. We ask that the Secretary of State applies controls that the airport is (designated under section 78 of the 1982 Civil Aviation Act) to limit the excessive environmental noise blight from the unrestricted night flying permitted at the airport. East Midlands Airport hosts more night flights than any of the big three London Airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) which are regulated by the Government under the 1982 Civil Aviation Act.

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1. Designation is a process determined by the Secretary of State for Transport who has the ability to define limits of night flying using section 78 of the 1982 Civil Aviation Act, Designation used to limit Night Flight activity at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.
2. Parliamentary Question by David Taylor MP 13th March 2008 Hansard

Night Flying: East Midlands Hansard

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many night flights there were from (a) East Midlands Airport and (b) designated London airports in each of the last 10 years. [192417]

Jim Fitzpatrick [holding answer 10 March 2008]: Night flights at the three London designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) are subject to restriction. With some exemptions, a movements and noise quota limit applies during the night quota period (11.30 pm to 6.00 am). The following table sets out the number of movements of aircraft subject to these controls. While there are restrictions on the type of aircraft that can be operated during the shoulder periods (11.00 pm to 11.30 pm and 6 am to 7 am) there are no limits on movements or quota during these periods.

13 Mar 2008 : Column 532W

<i>Total number of movements in night quota period (11.30 pm to 6 am)</i>			
	<i>Heathrow</i>	<i>Gatwick</i>	<i>Stansted</i>
Summer 1997	3007	8,095	2,821
1997-98 ⁽¹⁾	5,506	11,472	7,899
1998-99	6,194	12,467	5,451
1999-00	5,752	12,822	6,291
2000-01	5,886	14,324	7,260
2001-02	5,952	12,226	7,786
2002-03	5,977	11,954	7,695
2003-04	5,831	12,979	7,934
2004-05	5,843	13,939	8,958
2005-06	5,973	14,193	9,755
2006-07	6,238	12,909	11,067

⁽¹⁾ i.e. Winter/summer. *Note:* The totals relate to movements covered by the Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted noise restrictions. They include some movements which were disregarded from movements limits because of delays to aircraft which were likely to lead to serious congestion at the aerodrome or serious hardship or suffering to passengers or animals; or because of delays to aircraft resulting from widespread and prolonged disruption of air traffic.

No similar regime involving a night quota period is in place at East Midlands. Flights are recorded on a calendar year basis and on a night period basis (11.00 pm to 7 pm). Accordingly this data is not compatible with that provided.

<i>Total number of movements in night period (11.00 pm to 7 am)</i>	
	<i>East Midlands</i>
1997	16,071
1998	14,651
1999	14,731
2000	16,565
2001	15,418
2002	17,158
2003	17,468
2004	17,079
2005	16,544
2006	17,998
2007	19,888