

26-AUG-2004 15:34 P.01
Edward Garnier QC MP



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

23 August 2004

Nottingham East Midlands Airport
Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA), Leicestershire

I have received a letter dated 12 August from Kathy McCann of your Direct Communications Unit for which I am grateful. I can understand that you personally were not able to deal with the letter as you were away on holiday and in your absence the letter that I sent to you has been forwarded to the Department for Transport. So far so good: I do, however, have little confidence that the Department for Transport is treating this matter with the seriousness that it deserves. At the moment it is being dealt with by a Parliamentary Under Secretary, Tony McNulty, but the matter is of such importance both nationally and locally, that it ought to be dealt with by the Secretary of State at the very least.

I also believe that the matter is of sufficient importance for you personally to acquaint yourself with the issues surrounding NEMA's decision to increase the number of flights into and out of the airport through the night and the way in which the Civil Aviation Authority has dealt with the matter. There is a great deal of local dissatisfaction at the conduct of this expansion which is not confined to rural Conservative voters but also is to be found amongst many of your own Party's supporters in the urban areas of the East Midlands. On your return from abroad I really do advise you to at least take a cursory glance at what is going on here so that you are not surprised by a question across the floor of the House in the event that I get a question at PMQs in the near future.

Yours

Edward

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