

Chairman's Office



Mr Steve Charlish
Chairman
ELVAA
Dovecote House
Kings Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9BA

30 June 2004

Dear Mr Charlish

USE OF CLASS G AIRSPACE

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June 2004 in which you complain about the use of Class G or uncontrolled airspace during the night.

Civil air transport aircraft are not required to be contained in controlled airspace at all times; when traffic conditions allow, eg at night, it is permissible for such flights to take place in Class G airspace when the absence of other traffic enables more direct routings to be followed. Neither does the CAA have the legal powers to prevent an aircraft flying over a particular place or at a particular time for environmental reasons.

The operation of aircraft to and from Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA) in Class G airspace during the night has been taking place for many years and is unrelated to the airspace change proposal that the airport has submitted to the CAA. In particular, to enhance the provision of the air traffic services that it provides in Class G airspace, the air traffic controller unit at NEMA has authorisation from the CAA to extend the use of its radar from 40 nm to 60 nm to the East between the hours of 2200 and 0700 local. Aircraft receiving these services are mainly those flying in Class G airspace on direct tracks between the airport and the reporting point at Clacton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy McNulty'.

Sir Roy McNulty, CBE
Chairman