

BAA London Stansted Public consultation on its five-year Noise Action Plan

What is a Noise Action Plan?

It's a series of specific actions that Stansted Airport will implement over the five-year period from 2010 – 2015 to help manage aircraft noise responsibly, covering both airborne and ground noise.

Why do you need one?

A noise action plan is now mandatory for all UK airports who have more than 50,000 air traffic movements a year and is as a result of European Union Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EU, UK Government regulations and The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 SI (2006) 2238.

Does that mean you've not been managing noise up until now?

Absolutely not! London Stansted prides itself on the work our Flight Evaluation Unit and Noise Communications team have put into place over the past years – this Noise Action Plan builds upon that work and looks to continually improve the way the airport manages aircraft noise.

Who has decided on what actions are included in the plan?

The airport has drafted its proposed action plan and has already conducted some pre-consultation with the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC), NATS, the Flight Operations Committee, local Environmental Health Officers and other key stakeholder groups. At this stage, it's still a DRAFT, unapproved plan.

So why are you consulting with the public about it?

We take our responsibility as an airport operator seriously. We know noise is an important issue for many people and so it's vitally important that we share our proposed plans to manage noise with the general public and listen to what their views are about our proposed plans.

Isn't this the same as the NATS "TC North" airspace consultation?

No. NATS are conducting a very separate and distinct public consultation on their proposed airspace changes. Our consultation is on our proposed action plan for the next five years to manage airborne and ground noise from our airport operation.

Won't having a 2nd runway at Stansted make this action plan out-dated?

The timescale for having an operational 2nd runway at the airport (pending planning permissions) would fall outside of this five-year plan.

How can I have my say on your proposed plans?

We have asked GfK NOP, a leading research agency, to conduct a survey about the noise action plan on our behalf. If you wish to take part in that survey, you will need to read about our plans and then complete a short questionnaire. All of this information can be accessed via our website www.stanstedairport.com/noise.

Alternatively, you can request a hard copy of the consultation document and the survey by contacting the Consultation Hotline on 01279 662800 (answerphone) or by emailing stanstednoiseline@baa.com.

What is the consultation period?

It's a 16 weeks consultation period and it starts on 12th June 2009 and will run through until 2nd October 2009.

What happens once the consultation ends?

GfK will analyse all responses and present these back to the airport for consideration. Where we can, we will take on-board the comments and revise our draft action plans before submitting a final set of plans to the DfT for them to review and recommend to DEFRA on whether the plans should be adopted for the next five years.

Who will check that you do the actions that you say your going to do?

We will report back annually to STACC on our progress and include a progress update in our annual Corporate Social Responsibility report that is published on our website (www.stanstedairport.com)