

Heathrow Airport Limited

The Compass Centre,
Nelson Road, Hounslow,
Middlesex TW6 2GW

T: +44 (0)208 745 9976

W: heathrow.com

E: Nigel_Milton@baa.com

Registered in England No: 1991017

Registered Office: The Compass Centre, Nelson Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2GW

Cllr Lord True
114 Palewell Park
East Sheen
SW14 8JH

29 November 2011

Dear Councillor

We are aware of a significant increase in aircraft noise complaints from residents living within your local authority. The noise is being incorrectly attributed to the Operational Freedoms trial that is ongoing at Heathrow. I therefore thought it was important to explain that it is in fact due to the airport experiencing a prolonged spell of easterly operations this month, and reassure you that it has nothing at all to do with the trial.

As you know, easterly operations occur when the prevailing wind is from the east. Wind direction determines in which direction aircraft can land and take-off. Under easterly operations, aircraft land from the west and take-off towards London. Some of the easterly departure routes are over areas such as Twickenham and Teddington. These routes have not changed for many decades. This month, Heathrow was on easterly operations from 2-22 November. On average, Heathrow has easterly winds for 30 per cent of the year but this fluctuates from month to month. You can see from the table below that November has experienced an unusually high number of easterly operations compared with any other month this year.

	Westerly operations (%)	Easterly operations (%)
January	76	24
February	73	27
March	43	57
April	48	52
May	78	22
June	83	17
July	69	31
August	84	16
September	85	15
October	71	29
November (to date)	31	69

Regarding the Operational Freedoms trial, this impacts those residents living under the final approach to Heathrow for example, Richmond, Putney and Hounslow.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation. If you wish to know more or feel that a meeting would be helpful, please contact me and I would be happy to set something up.

Residents can find out more about Heathrow's operations by visiting www.heathrowairport.com/noise or calling the community relations team on 020 8745 5791.

Kind regards,



Nigel Milton
Director of Policy and Political Relations