

Date: 2 February 2016



Department of  
the Environment  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

Mr John Walsh  
Town Solicitor  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

LEGAL SERVICES	
REC'D	08 FEB 2016
INSP. BY:	<i>[Signature]</i>
ACT BY:	<i>[Signature]</i>
REF:	405-86-3

Contact: Nicole Thompson  
Telephone: (028) 90 823464

Dear Mr Walsh

**Re: Proposed Modification of Planning Agreement between the Department and George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA)**

Further to your participation in the above process, I include a copy of the independent report of the Planning Appeals Commission into the public inquiry which was held in May 2015, which will also be available on our website [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk) within the next few days.

The Department is considering the PAC recommendations with a view to making recommendations to the Minister on if and how the Planning Agreement should be modified. It emphasises that at this stage no recommendation has been made by the Department with regard to any decision in the light of the PAC Report and no decision has been reached by the Minister.

However, to assist in this process, the Department invites any comments from interested parties on the issue of the **PAC recommended noise control contour of 5.2sqkm** (see paras 147 & 159 of the PAC Report). The Department is neither proposing to reopen the public inquiry nor is it inviting views on any other issue (subject to the point below) nor inviting further evidence. Comments should be restricted to observations on the recommended contour.

In addition, the Department recently received a copy of the Flybe Annual Report 2014/2015 and was asked to reopen the public inquiry to consider this information (a copy of the letter from Johnsons Solicitors is enclosed and the Flybe Annual Report is available on the website [www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)). However the Department considers that Flybe's intention to focus in the short term on their turboprop fleet was discussed in evidence presented at the Inquiry, and considered by the PAC at paras 79 & 82 of their Report and the Flybe Annual Report does not contain any significant new information. If any party disagrees with that approach, the Department will consider any representations at the same time as in respect of the contour recommendation.

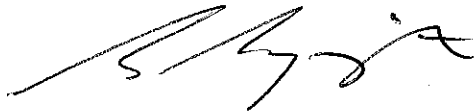
**Comments should be submitted in hard copy** to the Strategic Planning Division, Level 5 Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG **or by email** to

spdadmin@doeni.gov.uk **no later than 7 March 2016**. Comments received after that date may not be considered.

It should be noted that all such written comments will also be made available for public inspection both in Causeway Exchange and on our website, [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Symington', written in a cursive style.

Scott Symington  
Strategic Planning Manager