



Our Ref

Your Ref

7 March 2016

Mr Scott Symington
Strategic Planning Manager
DOE Strategic Planning Division
Level 5 Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST BT2 7EG

Dear Mr Symington

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

I refer to your letter of 20 February 2016.

I am grateful to you for sight of the PAC report and the opportunity to comment upon the recommended noise control contour.

The Council proposed a noise contour falling within a potential range of 5.2km² - 6.1km². The approach from the Planning Appeals Commission in relation to the contour is at the most conservative end of the range and is predicated upon a fleet mix which is not reflective of realistic ambitions for growth and connectivity with key European destinations, places undue weight on diversion from other airports in Northern Ireland and fails to give any significant credence to potential claw back from Dublin.

The Council accepts that a quota count system may operate as an effective noise control. However the Council would suggest that with this added protection the contour could be fixed at the greater limit of the range proposed (6.1km²) and a progressive regime introduced over time to encourage the use of quieter aircraft through the use of the quota count system.

The Council welcomes the general tenure of the PAC approach which has been to strike a balance between protecting communities and the environment, but permitting growth and promoting the benefits of controlled expansion at local and macro levels. This is the substance of the case advanced by the Council at the Public Inquiry.

Yours sincerely


John Walsh LL.B LL.M
Town Solicitor

Belfast City Council, Chief Executive's Department
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405
Fax: 028 9027 0535 Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast
Email: legalservices@belfastcity.gov.uk



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