

5<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Councillor Robert Lawton  
Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport  
Bournemouth Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Bourne Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY

Dear Councillor Lawton,

Thank you for your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and please except my apologies for the late reply. Your letter highlight concerns about the charter flights, which are currently scheduled to operate at night next summer. I am happy to set the record straight.

Tour operators Thomson Holidays and First Choice have announced that they are increasing their capacity at Bournemouth next year in response to local demand for destinations not currently served from the Airport. New routes to Turkey, Greece, Tunisia and Egypt will be available for the first time and some of the return flights, because of the distance involved, will arrive back during the night. However, some of these night flights will replace arrivals from other destinations which are not so distant and which will be operating during the day. This means that overall, we do not anticipate that the number of charter flights arriving during the night next summer will be more than is already occurring this year and therefore the overall noise environment will not deteriorate.

It is also important to remember that no departures, other than the nightly mail flight to the Channel Islands, are scheduled during the night as at other airports, thereby limiting the noise impact on our neighbours.

The type of aircraft that the tour operators plan to use next year will also be an improvement on those currently operating in terms of environmental performance. The new flights will be operated by Boeing 737-800, which is the latest version of this aircraft with superior fuel efficiency and less noise impact. Whilst the new aircraft will be slightly larger than its predecessor, hence the increase in overall seat capacity at Bournemouth mentioned above, the number of flights per week will not increase.

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As you know, the Airport has a legally binding Section 106 Agreement with Christchurch Borough Council, which has imposed a Night Time Quota - the maximum permitted sum of the quota counts of all aircraft taking off or landing at the Airport during the night. The proposed night-time arrivals will not compromise the limit agreed with the Council.

We are pleased that the tour operators concerned have demonstrated their confidence in the Airport at a time when they are reducing their operations elsewhere. Overall, we believe the appropriate balance has been struck between keeping the noise impact to a minimum and satisfying local demand for these flights. These new night operations are arrivals rather than noisier departures, the tour operators will utilise the most modern, quieter aircraft and will not involve an increase overall in the number of night operations. Nevertheless, we will continue to talk to the tour operators to see if their draft schedules can be amended to allow for an earlier arrival.

I hope this clarifies the situation and will reassure you that the recent announcement does not presage a large increase in night operations which local press reports may have inferred.

Yours sincerely,

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

Robert Goldsmith  
Managing Director  
Bournemouth International Airport Limited