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Date: 4 July 2019

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Dear Connor

Slightly steeper approaches – design principles feedback request

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment, and for arranging for the additional response time and opportunity for Michael Thornton to discuss detailed queries (our email dated 24 June) with the John Henderson of the airspace technical team.

We understand from the consultation document and this further discussion that:

a formal CAA approval process is now required to consolidate measures that are already being successfully trailed and enacted at Heathrow;

a single ILS system on each runway approach is currently set at around 3.0deg, and that use of a traditional ILS approach is the preferred choice of many aircrews and ATC because of the lower workloads to both;

most aircraft can also use a PBN (RNav) approach the minimum requirements for using each system differ;

that if IPA is implemented to , that these aircraft would use a PBN approach and these can then safely integrate with the main landing stream on the ILS approach;

the difference in approach height and noise reduction from this alone is small, on average the trial shows a saving of around 0.5dB. Whilst an even steeper approach means an aircraft is higher at a given point on the approach, it will need to deploy braking to limit airspeed, which in turn creates turbulence and noise; and

otherwise, there are no negative implications.

Notwithstanding the limited impacts of this measure, HSPG do support this change and the approach adopted by Heathrow to achieve continuous improvement in procedures to achieve noise reductions. Whereas the slightly steeper approach has a small impact, in combination with other small steps such as

the relocation of the runway thresholds, the steps accumulate to achieve significant potential environmental and public health benefits.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Owen
Executive Director, Heathrow Strategic Planning Group

On behalf of the following HSPG member organisations:

- London Borough of Hounslow
- Slough Borough Council
- South Bucks District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- London Borough of Ealing
- Spelthorne Borough Council
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- Bucks and Thames Valley LEP
- Enterprise M3 LEP
- Colne Valley Park CIC
- Elmbridge Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead