

REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MANCHESTER AIRPORT FLIGHT NOISE



Report Reference COM-23-05
Meeting Date 19th June 2023
Agenda Item 10
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Town Council has received correspondence from a number of residents complaining that there appears to be an increase in the level of noise from aircraft flying over Knutsford and there are concerns both that the number of flights has increased and the positioning of aircraft over Knutsford has shifted.

The next meeting of the Manchester Airport Joint Consultative Committee is in July, which Cllr Banks or Cllr Russell will be attending as the council's representative.

2.0 RESPONSE FROM MANCHESTER AIRPORT

The following response was received from the Manchester Airport Community Relations team following a query related to the increase in aircraft noise:

As you may be aware from previous correspondence, for safety, aircraft must take off into the wind. At Manchester Airport, our usual way of operating sees aircraft descending from the East over the Stockport area and taking off towards Knutsford in the West. This is because the prevailing wind in the UK is usually in a west-east direction. When we operate in this manner, we refer to it as 'Westerly' operations. However, for roughly 20% of the time, we must operate in the opposite direction - which we refer to as 'Easterly' operations - due to the prevailing wind direction and you will see aircraft landing/near to your home instead.

So far in 2023 (January to May) 26% of our operations have been easterly which I would expect to be balanced out by a high proportion of westerly months over the coming months. The 20%/80% split is an average figure and so there are periods of greater exposure and times when there is far less.

We know that Easterly operations adversely affect our neighbouring communities, so we always revert back to Westerly operations as soon as it is possible to do so safely. Please note that whilst around 20% is the average, the frequency of Easterly operations does vary through the year with certain seasons and months being more prone than others to this 'switch' to operations. From the beginning of June, the wind direction veered from 10 Knot westerly to a 5 Knot north-easterly and, in order to continue to land aircraft safely, we had no choice but to switch to easterly operations. As I type, we are recording a 9.3 Knot north-easterly in a direct line with the runways and so have no choice but to continue to operate in an easterly direction.

I can confirm that there has been [no] changes to our flight paths / heights or take-off

direction other than our recent periods of easterly operations and as I mentioned we have had longer periods during the last couple of weeks.

You are able to see the track of all Manchester aircraft movements on specific dates and times by using our self-service investigation tool, WebTrak. You can also log a complaint directly from this system. You can see WebTrak here: <https://webtrak.emsbk.com/man2>. For Noise complaints, be use our community Relations email address below, which will ensure a prompt reply.

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider whether to make further representations to the airport concerning the complaints from residents.