

13 June 2008

TCN Consultation
NATS
Freepost NAT22750
Reading
RG1 4BR.

Dear Sir/Madam,

TERMINAL CONTROL NORTH: PROPOSED CHANGES TO AIRSPACE

I am writing to protest in the strongest possible terms to the proposed airspace changes affecting the parts of the Terminal Control North airspace above the Chilterns AONB. I have read your Consultation document and listened to the views of the people that I represent and am wholly opposed to the proposals, which will permit jet aircraft to fly over the Chiltern ridge as low as 2400' with the result that general aviation will be flying at or below 1400' over the local population.

A further objection is the fact that nowhere did your Consultation document state that NATS Holdings Ltd made an operating profit of £144 million on a turnover of £701 million last year and that a consortium of 7 airlines, many of which fly out of Luton, holds the majority of the voting rights. Should it not have been made known that it is in the commercial interests of these airlines to see passenger numbers increase at Luton airport from 10 million to 30 million within just 12 years?

Bearing in mind the huge investment in infrastructure currently taking place in and around Luton, the temporary closure of the A505, widening of the M1 etc, there is little mention of investment by NATS in these proposals. Certainly not the need to move the Bovingdon Hold should a third runway be built at Heathrow. Rather some pretty flimsy reasons for the proposed changes. Does the proposal to reduce delays by 17 seconds per aircraft per annum seem like a valid excuse? Not to us.

Using satellite technology it will be possible to increase the number of flights safely in our airspace. We doubt it. It is an impending disaster for the people living in the Chilterns AONB. Will noise and the concentration of emissions at a lower altitude not spoil the Ridgeway, an area of tranquillity which has 52 million visits a year? This must be stopped before one of the most outstanding parts of Britain, close to London's doorstep, is sacrificed for an increase in air travel which looks ever less certain.

Yours faithfully,