



SOUTH BELFAST PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Strategic Planning Division (Headquarters)
Millennium House
17 – 25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BN

8 June 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Proposals by George Best Belfast City Airport to modify its Planning Agreement

I write to you on behalf of the South Belfast Partnership Board's Community Support Group (CSG) to express our grave concern with regard to the proposals submitted by George Best Belfast City Airport to modify its Planning Agreement. The CSG consists of a number of representatives from community and voluntary groups that operate in South Belfast and seeks to represent the collective views of the communities they represent.

A considerable proportion of South Belfast is already adversely affected by noise from aircraft which operate to and from the City Airport. Aircraft noise already spoils the peace and tranquillity of public spaces in South Belfast, such as Ormeau Park, Botanic Park and Lagan Meadows. Many residents who live under or close to the flight path in South Belfast already find their sleep, conversations and TV viewing disrupted. Those who have gardens are unable to enjoy them in peace and quiet when planes fly over.

The proposals which have been submitted by the airport would permit a level of noise far higher than that currently endured. We are especially concerned at the information on noise impact contained in Annex B, Sections 6 and 7, Tables 4, 5 and 6, and at Annex B, Appendix C, Tables C2, C3 and C4 of the proposals, which outlines the large number of people, dwellings and schools which would be affected by these proposals. We note, from the accompanying maps, that the airport acknowledges that these include a significant number of people in South Belfast, along with nine local schools.

We believe that there should be the right balance between the commercial interests of the airport and the health and quality of life of local residents. We do not believe that the proposals submitted by the City Airport would provide for such a balance. It must also be borne in mind that, if further airport expansion is deemed desirable, there is an existing


South Belfast Partnership

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international airport with plenty of spare capacity on a greenfield site just 30 minutes' drive from Belfast.

We would very much like to see the airport governed by a robust noise management system. However, the permissible noise levels contained in these noise management proposals are unacceptable. If you wish to discuss further or would like any further information in relation to any of the matters raised in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact my colleague Martyn Smithson on 02890 244 070 or martyn.smithson@southbelfast.org.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne McAleese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.

Anne McAleese
CEO, South Belfast Partnership Board
On behalf of the Community Support Group