

The Civil Aviation Authority's response to Gatwick Airport Limited's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

CAP 1890

Published by the Civil Aviation Authority, 30 September 2019

Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR

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First published 2019
Second edition

The latest version of this document is available in electronic format at: www.caa.co.uk

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The CAA's response to GAL's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

Introduction

1. The CAA is the UK's specialist aviation regulator. We work so that:
 - the aviation industry meets the highest safety standards. We regulate the safety of airport design against UK, European and international safety criteria.
 - consumers have choice, value for money, are protected and treated fairly when they fly. We regulate (currently through a set of 'commitments' which expire in March 2021) the costs of operating Gatwick airport and certain service quality targets.
 - airspace is well managed. We make decisions on proposals to change airspace design, which we do against the background of Directions¹ and environmental guidance from the Secretary of State.
 - the aviation industry manages security risks effectively.
2. We also provide the government, and third parties on a commercial basis, with environmental advice as requested, including information about the noise effects of aviation operations. In general, it is for government to determine environmental policy and for the CAA, where required, to implement such policy as it relates to our functions.
3. We welcome the opportunity to respond to Gatwick Airport Limited's (GAL) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping report in our capacity as a prescribed statutory consultee in the planning process.
4. By way of general introductory comment, in paragraphs 5 to 15 we provide a high-level overview of our regulatory roles and how they relate to the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. In paragraphs 16 to 19 we explain how we approached our consideration of GAL's EIA scoping report. In paragraphs 20 to 37 we provide such comments as we have at this stage on those chapters of GAL's EIA scoping report that relate to the CAA's regulatory roles.
5. For further information about the CAA's responsibilities or on any of our comments in this paper, please contact us at DCO.Coordination@caa.co.uk.

¹ The Civil Aviation Authority (Air Navigation) Directions 2017 (as amended by The Civil Aviation Authority (Air Navigation) (Amendment) Directions 2018)