



# FELSTED

## PARISH COUNCIL

**Mrs D M B SMITH**  
**Clerk to the Council**

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Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

1 August 2016

Dear Sir Alan

### **RE: STANSTED FLIGHTPATH CHANGES**

Thank you for your reply. We do understand the difficulties presented through the prism of past decisions, and the reality of how hard it is to change the direction of such a behemoth. Hard, but of course not impossible.

We are aware that NATS has, in the past, demonstrated little genuine interest in the concerns of communities and has done even less, despite spoken platitudes. Experience has shown that, whilst superficially they listen, in reality they see this as complying with an expectation to meet, with no intention to actually do anything. We however, will remain hopeful that they have changed and thank you for your offer to arrange a meeting.

More positively, through attendance at focus groups, the Stop Stansted Expansion group has opened what appears to be a very constructive dialogue with the Department for Transport and the Secretary of State. They report a positive reception to the principles of respite, a greater understanding of the impact on health from aircraft noise, particularly at night, and a genuine desire for accountability and to act on community concerns.

We are therefore very keen for you, as our MP, to take the opportunity of this 'following wind' to press our case at the DfT to have the runway 22 and 4 flightpath changes reversed and to have runway 4 Clacton NPR reviewed against respite use, given the impact on Stebbing and Felsted residents.

This will also provide some grounding for the forthcoming night flight consultation, where we anticipate needing your assistance in pressing the case for reducing night flight allowances, particularly in light of the strong health risk data currently emerging.

It is also worthy of note that the Stansted noise complaints line remains switched off, with a message telling people to send an email, thus preventing those without internet access from making any complaints. Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Yours sincerely

Diane Smith  
Clerk to Felsted Parish Council