Ms W Hobhouse MP

Bath Constituency

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

And:

26 Charles Street
Bath
BA1 1HU

office@werahobhouse.co.uk 7 February 2020

Dear Ms Hobhouse

Re: Bristol Airport

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lansdown Crescent Association.

You will be aware that an application has been made (18/P/5118/OUT)

to expand Bristol Airport, to which the Federation of Bath Residents Associations and BANES have already objected along with over 8000 individual residents. The net result of the proposal is that there will be 2,100 more car parking spaces, increased numbers of flights serving a total of 12 million passengers a year and, most importantly, operating within a rolling annualised cap of 4,000 night flights between the hours of 23:30 and 06:00 with no seasonal restrictions. The night flights equate to 11 every night of the year but with no seasonal restrictions this will probably be 20 in summer and 6 in winter. With a prevailing south-westerly wind most of these flights will approach the airport over Lansdown, overflying one of the most attractive areas within Bath including prime Georgian Crescents specified as a reason for UNESCO Heritage status.

Our specific concerns relate to chemical and noise pollution, and increased traffic. Why do we need more flights when people are becoming more concerned about their carbon footprint? This application should be strongly opposed in the interests of the environment, chemical and noise pollution as well as its impact on local roads. These roads were not built for airport traffic and not everyone will travel via Bristol centre to use public transport.

We are aware of your concerns as the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for the Environment and Climate Change. We very much hope you will use your position to fight against this potentially damaging proposal that, although not within your constituency, will seriously adversely affect Bath residents. Indeed a strong case could be made to reduce the current number of night flights into Bristol, which are increasing even before these proposals.

Bath residents and their children should be protected from the damage to their health caused by chemical and noise pollution, and disturbed sleep. Below is an extract from a worrying scientific report from the World Health Organisation, which demonstrates these damaging effects.

Kind regards

Nick Bishop (Dr)

LCA Committee (Traffic Lead)

References:

In 2011 the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report titled ‘Burden of disease from environmental noise’ <https://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/e94888/en/>. This study collated data from various large-scale epidemiological studies of environmental noise in Western Europe, collected over a 10-year period. The studies analysed environmental noise from planes, trains and vehicles, as well as other city sources, and then looked at links to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, cognitive impairment in children, and annoyance. The WHO team used the information to calculate the disability-adjusted life-years or DALYs—basically the healthy years of life―lost to ‘unwanted’ human-induced dissonance.

They found that at least *one million healthy years of life are lost each year in Europe alone due to noise pollution* (and this figure does not include noise from industrial workplaces). The authors concluded that ‘there is overwhelming evidence that exposure to environmental noise has adverse effects on the health of the population’ and ranked traffic noise second among environmental threats to public health (the first being air pollution). The authors also noted that while other forms of pollution are decreasing, noise pollution is increasing…

…The most obvious (effect) is interrupted sleep, with its flow-on effects of tiredness, impaired memory and creativity, impaired judgement and weakened psychomotor skills. Research has shown that *people living near airports or busy roads have a higher incidence of headaches, take more sleeping pills and sedatives, are more prone to minor accidents, and are more likely to seek psychiatric treatment*.

But there is another, more serious outcome. Even if you don’t wake up, it appears that continual noise sets off the body’s acute stress response, which raises blood pressure and heart rate, potentially mobilising a state of hyper-arousal. It is this response that can lead to cardiovascular disease and other health issues.