



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: SO16978

15 October 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Abolition of ICCAN

We are writing to you about your recent decision to abolish ICCAN. Aircraft noise is, and will continue to be, a key issue for the communities we represent and the current reduction in traffic should be seen as an opportunity to build back better.

We are very disappointed by the decision to abolish ICCAN, especially given the history behind its establishment and the clear need for an independent voice on aviation noise issues. As the review of ICCAN concluded, the abolition decision risks reducing confidence that issues that are important to local communities will be considered appropriately.

The DfT review concluded that "*If ICCAN were to be dismantled, or absorbed into other structures, there would remain a need to have an independent voice on aviation noise.*" Yet your Department has not put forward any proposals to establish such an independent voice. Such independence is crucial to ensuring that airspace change processes are transparent and balance the needs of all parties.

We are concerned that there have been no alternative proposals put forward to ensure that overflowed communities are given a greater stake in processes which involve changes to airspace.

We believe that it is vital that the public can have confidence in noise data published by the industry and to have trust in the impartiality of the airspace change process. This could not be more important at a time when we are entering the biggest airspace change for 60 years.

In our view, it is not clear how the CAA can be both the regulator responsible for approving airspace change and provide independent analysis of the impacts on local communities. Its existing statutory duties appear to reveal a conflict of interest that your Department has not, to date, expressed a clear view on how this might be resolved.

ICCAN's creation was recommended by the Airports Commission because it recognised the inability of the CAA or the DfT to act as trusted and independent representation for overflowed communities.

Consequently, we believe that there is an emphasis on your department to bring forward proposals that improve the ability of the CAA to deliver and ensure that the needs of local

communities are properly considered.

We would like to see:

- A commitment for proposals to establish a new independent voice on aviation noise.
- Proposals to strengthen the CAA's statutory duties on noise to ensure it can deliver reductions in noise pollution.
- Clarity of funding for both the workstreams that the CAA is expected to take on, including the new Environmental Panel.
- A comprehensive review of aviation noise policy and regulation including mitigation measures.
- A public consultation and engagement on the scope of the CAA's new responsibilities and the ways it will deliver them.
- Clarity about which of ICCAN's functions are being transferred to the CAA and which ones will remain with the DfT.
- The inclusion of representatives from the Department of Health and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in any new governance arrangements to address noise issues.
- A clear work programme to pick up the projects commenced by ICCAN around the health impacts of noise and the development of noise surveys.

We would of course welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park

Adam Afriyie MP
Karen Buck MP
Ruth Cadbury MP
Daisy Cooper MP
Janet Daby MP
Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb
Baroness Kramer
Caroline Lucas MP
Rt. Hon. John McDonnell MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Mike Penning MP
Andy Slaughter MP
Munira Wilson MP