**Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee**

**Noise Sub Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**27th February 2024, 10 AM**

**Present Representing**

David Haley (DH) Chair

John Littleton (JL) Woolsington Parish Council (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Eric Mackinlay (EM) Brunswick Village Parish Council

Cllr Steven Phelps (SP) Dinnington Parish Council

Rodger Haydon (RH) Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG)

Martin Brown (MB) North Tyneside Council

**For Newcastle International Airport (NIAL)**

Graeme Mason (GM) Chief Sustainability and Communications Officer

Alan Davies (AD) Head of Air Traffic Services

Joe Barrass (JB) Environmental and Sustainability Advisor

Elliot Stefaniuk (ES) Environmental and Sustainability Assistant

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

DH welcomed the members and thanked them for their attendance.

Formal apologies:

Fiona Raje (FR) Consumer Rep

DH asked about the lack of responses from members confirming their attendance.

JB responded stating that multiple reminder emails were sent to all members.

***ACTION (ALL):***

* ***All members to please confirm their attendance or absence ahead of the each meeting to JB.***
1. **Minutes and actions of the Last Meeting**

DH asked the Committee if they all agreed with the minutes presented from the last meeting held. RH contested the statement regarding the ANAG Complaint Form.

***ACTION:***

* ***JB to remove the statement RH was relating to and re-circulate the minutes to committee members.***
1. **Chair’s Business**

DH informed that he had no business to discuss.

1. **Secretariat Business**

GM announced to the Sub Committee he was leaving and that this would be his last NSC meeting, and his successor would be announced in March. DH thanked GM and RH wished him well in the future.

1. **Airport Noise Complaints Analysis Summary**

JB provided a presentation on Newcastle International Airport’s Noise Complaints Analysis. A comparison of Q4 2022 vs Q4 2023 was presented by JB which showed an increase in total complaints but a reduction in individual complainants. JB explained that a high percentage of these complaints came from 3 repeat complainants.

JB presented several comparative graphs, highlighting September 2023 as the peak month for received complaints. DH asked AD if this had any correlation to the weather. AD explained that this was due to the longer summer flight season which had seen approximately an 8% increase in flights over that period. AD brought to attention the unusually low volume of complaints in June 2023, he then explained that this was due to the increase in departures to the east, which was due to the offshore winds coming from the North Sea. GM emphasised that there is a much higher population affected by non-airport-related noise to the East of the Airport and may explain the reduction in complaints for that month.

JB presented maps of Q4 2022, Q4 2023 and 2023 total complaints. DH explained that the data may be slightly skewed as the 3 individuals are much more active in their complaints. RH highlighted his interest in gathering data across a 3-year period and what this would look like.

1. **ANAG Items (Including Complaints Report)**

RH explained that 2022’s data was an outlier as the methodology in reporting complaints had changed halfway through the year.

RH read through the ‘ANAG: Complaints process: the dynamics and the limitations leading to under-reporting’ paper. RH explained through different types of ANAG member complaint behaviour and the dynamics of making a complaint. RH referenced the people who hear the noise, are sometimes unable to complain at the time and may forget to do it later. RH’s view was that this could lead to underreporting. AD explained that this would be the same for all airports across the country and complaints in general.

DH requested some amendments to the ‘ANAG: Complaints process: the dynamics and the limitations leading to under-reporting’ paper. DH explained that the introduction had an underlying tone against NIAL as it is under the assumption that NIAL is losing interest in complaints. DH stressed that NIAL is trying to understand and eliminate issues around noise, where possible. DH highlighted that the NSC deals with data only and tries to understand what is happening to improve or accept what can and can't be done to reduce noise.

***ACTION:***

* ***RH to consider the introduction to the ‘ANAG: Complaints process: the dynamics and the limitations leading to under-reporting’ form.***
1. **Other airport updates**

GM mentioned the Masterplan consultation would be happening in Q3 of 2024. GM explained the potential discussions with the Council to align the dates of the Masterplan and the Council’s plan as currently, the Masterplan extends to 2040, whereas the Council’s extends to 2045.

JB explained that there had been no complaints made through the NIAL online form since its introduction in December 2023.

GM and JB explained that feedback from the Noise Action Plan had been received by DEFRA.

1. **Any Other Business**

JB highlighted the extent that NIAL goes to in its complaint responses, providing information on the complaints, which takes a lengthy period. JB stated that complainants could respond to NIAL’s response to ensure that it had been received by the complainant.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

End of May, exact date TBC.