

## FACC Questions – February 2020

Members Questions, Questions from Members of the Public.

Julia Longrigg - Greater Rushmoor Against War ("GRAW") asked the following questions:

Question 1 - To the Farnborough International Delegate.

What moral responsibility does the Exhibition Centre have to events hosted within it? For example hosting the DPRTE ( which the Campaign Against the Arms Trade describe as an Arms Fair ) in 2019 and the pending Home Office event which will welcome Hikvision a company blacklisted by the USA for producing surveillance equipment used to suppress human rights, against China's Turkic minorities.

No one from Farnborough International attended the meeting. The Secretary forwarded the question and received the following written response:

*Farnborough International is a wholly owned subsidiary of ADS Group – the UK trade association for the aerospace, defence, security and space industries.*

*The defence industry makes a strategically important contribution to the UK economy and is fundamental to protecting and promoting national security.*

*Farnborough is home to some of the world's leading defence companies which provide valuable local employment, and both Farnborough and Aldershot have a long-held and proud association with the UK's Armed Forces.*

*The Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre operates according to a comprehensive licence agreement which places clear stipulation around the types of events that can take place.*

*The DPRTE event is a procurement event for the defence industry and not the type of event portrayed by Campaign Against the Arms Trade.*

*In relation to the question about Hikvision, it is not our position to provide comment on specific companies. Farnborough International will follow guidance from the Home Office for the UK's position on international issues. We can however comment that Hikvision will no longer be participating in the Security and Policing event being held next week.*

The Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre asked the Secretary to advise Members and all attendees to refer any questions relating to their business directly to them. This includes those asked by Julia Longrigg.

The Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre asked the Secretary to publish the following email address: [enquiries@farnborough.com](mailto:enquiries@farnborough.com)

Question 2 - A question to the FACC Committee.

Please would the Committee have a show of hands to show their support, in principle, for me to organise a Public Information Meeting about Farnborough Airport, its use and its future to be held at The Princess Hall, in mid-May, or a date convenient to the FACC committee.

The Chairman responded, GRAW did not need the support of the FACC to hold a meeting about the airport or any other matter.

Chris Axam asked JL if she felt the Committee was not doing what it should? What is missing?

JL responded that if members do not attend, nothing can be achieved. The FACC does not advertise itself so no one knows it is there to help them and there was no way to address the issues around the airport or make complaints.

Jenny Radley indicated that Farnborough Airport did provide a complaints telephone line and e-mail address and this was available on the FACC and RBC web-site, saying that it was only this morning that she had been on the website to check.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman read out the website address for FAL and the complaints email address and phone number.

Jenny Radley and Miles Thomas advised how residents with any issue can register their issue with their MP, their Councillor, RBC, their local council, parish council, resident association or the airport itself. FAL has a complaint help line and email address.

The Secretary advised that the dates and times of meetings are advertised in the Hampshire Independent.

JL asked why there was no advertising on local radio and why are meetings held during the day rather than in the evening?

GM and James Radley both offered to attend a meeting with JL to talk about local issues regarding the airport and the work done by the FACC.

Question 3 - A question to FACC.

What is the FACC's view on the consequences to the environment and the local community, of the proposed widening of the Lynchford Rd into a 4-lane highway by Hampshire County Council who justify this to get more traffic to the airfield.

The Chairman responded, this was not a question for the Committee, it was rather for Hampshire County Council.

Question 4- A question for RBC and FACC.

The Farnborough Airport Area Action Plan lists about 9 policy documents (map changes, preferred approach, sustainability, habitats regulation assessment, airport consultation, key sites etc) these were completed in 2009. These policies were produced a decade ago. When and how will RBC update them to ensure the public are involved and aware of rapid changes affecting the area in which they live and work?

The Chairman responded this is not something FAL or the FACC can comment on. This question should be directed to RBC.

A question from Keith Oborn

The 23rd Feb was the end of the English school half term. On that day approximately 40% of arrivals at

Farnborough came from airports serving Alpine ski resorts. Over 50% came from “holiday destination” airports.

Analysis shows that most, if not all, of these aircraft had previously made the reverse journey, likely empty.

The previous weekend shows the opposite pattern.

Each journey to or from Farnborough results, on average, in the emission of 3 tonnes of CO2 per passenger. This is 30 times the emission from an equivalent commercial flight, and at least 250 times the emission from high speed rail.

How is this waste of resources and pollution justified by all concerned?

Brandon O’Reilly responded; we do not justify it. It is a matter for the aircraft owners.

KO: Thank you. Your response has been recorded for future use.

Extinction Rebellion Representative asked:

The government has brought forward the date to stop selling combustion engine and hybrid cars to 2035 (and may bring it even earlier). It has committed to be carbon zero by 2050 and the Heathrow decision today confirms this intention. Has Farnborough Aerodrome considered the likelihood of the government banning private jets and what would the impact be on jobs and investment if that were to happen?

Farnborough Aerodrome has planted 1,000 trees, which is great and I hope you will continue to do this every year. I also hope you will invest in green technologies as the aerodrome is relying heavily on carbon offsets to achieve its carbon neutral operation. Carbon offsetting is not an acceptable way to mitigate CO2 impact and the global COP26 meeting in November is likely to confirm this.

Brandon O’Reilly responded he was open to any ideas or proposals.

Hugh Sheppard - Hampshire CPRE asked Howard Simmons of ICCAN, do the new flight paths as implemented with ACP push aircraft into other areas? Are these being monitored and do we know the effects?

Howard Simmons responded, this was a very good question but that it was too early to say what the effects would be and until data was collated numbers would not be known. He did offer that if had any useful information on this he would bring it to the next meeting.

Reg Milne commented that he found the maps in the FAQs interesting and wondered if it was possible to see both heights and routes?

RM also asked if he could have a copy of the information showing the upper and lower levels of altitudes.

RW responded stating that in effect Reg was asking for a 3D map and at the moment this is not available.

Cllr. Brian Edmonds – Farnham Town Council asked how is suitable and sufficient insurance confirmed by the aerodrome? Brandon O’Reilly responded that it was the responsibility of the aircraft operator.

GM referred to the CAA’s publication of diagrams of the South East airport controlled airspace

curtilages at 2000 feet above sea level and beyond that level in 2000 feet steps. These diagrams are very simple, and therefore a helpful way of illustrating the volume of controlled airspace available for each airport, as well as the extent of the corridors of uncontrolled airspace available for use by the GA community. GM asked whether the diagrams could be updated to include Farnborough's controlled airspace

RW responded that this would not be available.

JL advised that she was going to write to the Association of Consultative Committees to complain about the FACC as she felt that the Committee were unable or not prepared to respond to her questions.

GM responded that in his experience many of the subjects raised by JL were for the attention of local Councillors and he agreed they were not always available for comment.

Jenny Radley asked if an update report about the Farnborough Airport Environment Fund could be brought to the next meeting and included as an annual item. It was important that people knew that this fund was available and how it was being used.

Maurice Sheehan informed the Meeting information on the Fund and the grants awarded, was already in the public domain and providing it to the Committee should not be a problem

All information relating to the Fund is available through publication of the RBC Cabinet Agenda and Minutes.

Action: The Secretary will liaise with RBC to establish the availability of the Report to the Committee. GM asked ICCAN about their understanding of the CAA report with reference to his questions. Howard Simmons confirmed he had received and read the observations from GM. He did not offer an answer.

Action: GM took responsibility and an action to draft a letter to go to the CAA and circulate it through the Secretary to the Committee.

James Radley made the observation that it had indeed been a monumental judgment today (referring to LHR third runway) and this will lead to a change in the way requests by airports for change and or expansion, will be considered by relevant bodies. Environmental changes had not been factored into the FAL approval for expansion. Operators of airports will need to address these issues thoroughly in future planning requests.