

Chemical Hazards
and Poisons Division

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Uttlesford



Health Protection Agency

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17th October 2006

Roger Harborough
Planning Policy & Conservation Manager
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Dear *Roger Harborough*,

**STANSTED AIRPORT – PLANNING APPLICATION TO INCREASE USE OF THE
RUNWAY – HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 1 Many thanks for sending me the Health Impact Assessment on the proposal to increase runway use at Stansted. Thank you also for the copy of BAA's response to a request for further information.
2. ERM have carried out a thorough health impact assessment. I note from the BAA letter that a number of consultants were involved in this activity, these included Professor Mark McCarthy, Professor Ross (Roy is a misprint) Anderson, Mr Bernard Berry and Doctor Mai Stafford. I am afraid I don't know Doctor Stafford but the other three experts are well known to me and all enjoy distinguished reputations in their fields. I have worked closely for 15 or more years with Professor Ross Anderson and Mr Bernard Berry is a member of the DH ad-hoc Group on Noise.
- 3 I have looked closely at the sections of the health impact assessment dealing with air pollutants and noise.
 - a Air Pollution The analysis is thorough and shows clearly that impacts on health due to changes in levels of air pollutants are likely to be very small indeed. This is unsurprising. The authors have gone to some lengths to review the recent literature on the subject including the report by the committee on the medical effects of air pollutants on cardiovascular disease and air pollution published earlier this year. Professor Ross Anderson was closely involved in the preparation of this report and I have no reason to doubt the conclusions of the health impact assessment.
 - b Noise The section on noise is also thorough and considerable attention has been paid to recent work on the alleged associations between noise and ischemic heart disease and hypertension. The authors have, I think rightly, included that evidence on these topics is mixed and it is difficult to draw firm conclusions regarding possible effects.

