

TOM TUGENDHAT MBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

4 July 2022

Robert Courts MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Robert,

You will be aware of recent press reports which indicate that the Department for Transport is considering relaxing restrictions on night flights in order to deal with some of the difficulties faced at airports at the moment.

We wanted to be clear that this measure is of great concern to us, and many residents within the communities we represent. Any increase, however temporary, to night flights at Gatwick Airport would not be seen as an effective solution to the issues at airports which is caused by operations on the ground, rather than in the sky.

There is already deep concern that Gatwick Airport does not have the same restrictions on night flights that Heathrow Airport does and you will be aware of longstanding concerns from local residents about this issue. Lifting the cap is only likely to exacerbate further these issues.

Given the fundamental issues around staff shortages for baggage handlers and potential strikes, we would encourage you to look for solutions at the airport rather than cause further issues for communities already affected by night flights.

Best wishes,

Crispin Blunt MP, Reigate
Nusrat Ghani MP, Wealden
Tom Tugendhat MP, Tonbridge and Malling

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP

01732 441 563 - tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk - www.tomtugendhat.org.uk