

 <b>West Lothian Council</b>	<b>Environmental Health</b>		<b>SUBJECT:</b> Aircraft Noise
		Food Safety/Food Hygiene	<b>NUMBER:</b> PH14
<b>REVISED:</b> June 2010		Health & Safety	
	✓	Public Health	<b>KEYWORDS:</b> AIRCRAFT AEROPLANE PLANE HELICOPTER NOISE EDINBURGH AIRPORT
<b>STATUS:</b> PUBLIC ADVICE	✓	Pollution Control	
		Pest Control/Dog Warden	

## Information Sheet PH14

### Information Sheet: Aircraft Noise

As a local authority, we have no direct means of control over air traffic noise. Most types of non-domestic noise complaint are dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, aircraft are specifically excluded from the scope of this legislation.

There are controls available via the Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and management of Environmental Noise, which was published on 18th July 2002). This was intended to be in UK law by 18th July 2004, but did not come into force in the UK until late 2006, when the regional versions of the Environmental Noise Regulations came into force (in Scotland from 05/10/2006, SSI 2006/445).

In Scotland, the competent authority for identifying and mapping noise sources from airports and their associated flight paths is the airport operator. In the case of Edinburgh Airport, this is BAA (British Airports Authority). The resulting strategic noise maps can be found at <http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org/public/view-map.aspx>. Details of the actions taken by BAA to control, limit and reduce noise can be found on its web site at [http://www.edinburghairport.com/portal/page/Edinburgh^General^About+Edinburgh+Airport^Community+matters^Aircraft+noise/3274e2bdf772c110VqnVCM10000036821c0a\\_/448c6a4c7f1b0010VqnVCM200000357e120a\\_/](http://www.edinburghairport.com/portal/page/Edinburgh^General^About+Edinburgh+Airport^Community+matters^Aircraft+noise/3274e2bdf772c110VqnVCM10000036821c0a_/448c6a4c7f1b0010VqnVCM200000357e120a_/).

To make complaints, residents can call 0800 731 3397. We would encourage you to report any specific aircraft flights which cause problems, which can then be directly investigated, using systems to which the airport has access. Edinburgh Airport can accurately tell after the event the route any particular aircraft took and it's height at any particular point in it's approach or take off. This allows BAA to penalise aircraft which diverge from the authorised flight path.

There are a few practical notes worth adding:

- Aircraft always take off into the prevailing wind. Therefore, it is usually departing flights which cross Livingston, by which time they are at considerable height to minimise noise problems. when there is no wind or it is easterly, the aircraft normally land from the west, which will generally mean that they are lower, but under much less power.
- The noise from individual aircraft has dropped considerably in the last decade. However, flights to and from Edinburgh have doubled. The net effect is a slight reduction in aircraft noise in West Lothian.
- Edinburgh Airport is still used on a semi-regular basis by military aircraft, which are considerably noisier than commercial aircraft. Some can be large and very noisy even on approach.

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- Traffic routes at night were altered for a while at night until November 2008 to permit phased resurfacing of the main runway. This would mean that for a period there would be much less night time flying over Livingston, which has now reverted to its normal pattern.

We hope that this answers any concerns and explains the reasons why West Lothian Council cannot directly intervene.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Health on 01506 282500 or [environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk), and we will try to help.