

Wednesday 15 April, 2015

Dear neighbour,

Edinburgh Airport: Airspace Trial 2015

I am writing to inform you of a very exciting and ground-breaking project we will be leading this year to trial a new departure route from Edinburgh Airport.

In early 2014, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick airports formed the Scottish Airspace Development and Design Group - a small sub-group of the UK Future Airspace Strategy Industry Implementation Group (FASIIIG). This group also comprises of representatives of our air traffic control provider NATS, airlines, the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The purpose of this group is to ensure airspace capacity for the future growth of aviation in Scotland and to implement this in a safe and sustainable way.

As we continue to see more passengers travel through our airports than ever before, we'll need to increase airspace capacity above Central Scotland to cater for this growth.

At the moment, Scotland's aircraft currently fly on a network that was designed in the 1970s. What we're aiming to do is to begin upgrading the airspace above Edinburgh Airport, bringing it into the 21st century.

Over the coming months Edinburgh Airport, in partnership with NATS and the CAA, will be leading a trial to introduce a new Standard Instrument Departure (SID) route for certain aircraft taking off from our airport. This will enable aircraft to depart in one minute intervals – allowing us to encourage and maintain safe and sustainable growth whilst ensuring our punctuality is unaffected.

It also allows us to increase the capacity of our airport without having to expand our current runway or build another.

So how does it work? Well, for six months from the end of June, our most modern and quietest aircraft will have the option to take off on a new westerly departure route.

The new SID route we will be trialling, will see aircraft take off from Edinburgh Airport in a south westerly direction and turn right towards the River Forth, climbing above water before flying back over land at approximately 13,000ft.

We've taken great care to design this new departure route with care and consideration for our neighbours. It passes over very few settlements and is routed over the Firth of Forth for the bulk of its flight path. Those who could be affected by this trial will be engaged with to help them understand why we're doing it and for us to find out how it is impacting on them.

We'll be placing noise monitors at various points along the flight path so we can collect data on the flights and analyse noise levels.

Investment in a new SID route will not only help us to grow sustainably, it will also help us increase Scotland's connectivity and ability to attract more airlines and introduce new destinations.

The most important thing to remember here is that this is a trial. However we understand that new SID routes may cause worry. A change to introduce any new SID route on a more permanent basis would require a statutory change process and involve further public engagement and a stakeholder consultation.

Although the new SID route won't be operational until June, we'll be officially launching our trial at the end of April in order to gain valuable feedback and engage with you as much as possible. To keep you fully up-to-date with the progress of our trial, we've created a website which will feature maps, images and further information for you to learn more about this exciting project.

I would encourage you to have a look and give us your feedback when the site goes live at the end of this month. Please visit sid.edinburghairport.com.

Edinburgh Airport is committed to the future of Scottish aviation and we will work with you to ensure that you have all of the information you need on this trial and that we are able to capture your views throughout the duration of the new SID project.

If you wish a face to face briefing, require any further information or simply want to register your opinion, please get in touch by emailing edicommunications@edinburghairport.com.

I look forward to working with you throughout this exciting project and sharing regular updates on its progress with you.

Kind regards,



Gordon Dewar
Chief Executive