

Department for Transport

Mr R Groves
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4 July 2006

Dear Mr Groves,

NOTTINGHAM EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT (NEMA)

Thank you for your letter of 26 May to the Secretary of State requesting that he reconsider the Council's request, made as part of its response to the Future of Air Transport White Paper consultation in 2002, that NEMA be designated for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. I have been asked to reply.

As you know, it was decided not to designate the airport in 2002 following the request from North West Leicestershire District Council. The decision letter made clear that the question of designation would only be revisited if there was a material change of circumstances.

The Department does not consider that to be the case at present. Your letter of 26 May does not provide any evidence that there has been a material change in circumstance.

I am aware of the Independent Consultative Committee's (ICC) decision in December not to endorse the 10-point plan. I am also aware that the 10-point plan has now been overtaken by additional proposals in the draft Master Plan. The Department was informed that the ICC intends to forward a submission to the Department on this issue after its next environmental meeting in June. This has not been received to date.

It would seem premature to make a decision on whether or not to reconsider the issue of designation for the purposes of s.78 of the 1982 Act before the Airport has had a chance to consider the responses to the consultation on the draft Master Plan and publish the final version.

The Government's broad policy remains as set out in the White Paper, namely that control of nuisance due to operational noise from aircraft should, so far as practical, be determined locally. Where reasonable controls are not forthcoming, the Secretary of State is nevertheless prepared to contemplate s.78 regulation, although this would not necessarily result in tougher controls.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F Chughtai'.

Mrs Fozia Chughtai