

## **Bristol Airport**

### **Consultation Response by the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations**

The Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA) is an apolitical organisation that is an umbrella organization for over 30 residents' associations (representing about 5,000 resident association members in the city of Bath). The city of Bath is unparished and thus FoBRA, *inter alia*, provided a representative voice reflecting a significant part of the community.

#### **Background**

The City of Bath is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in which a large number of heritage buildings sit within the natural bowl formed by the surrounding hills of the green WHS setting that forms a part of the WHS citation. A high proportion of the homes are in Grade I or Grade II Listed Georgian buildings. It is the nature of the fabric of these historic buildings, with single-skin stone elevations and sash windows, that they are particularly vulnerable to noise and vibrations. Further, their historical significance, Heritage Listings, and the fact that a high proportion of them are in designated Conservation Areas means that the options permitted under planning rules for insulating them against noise and vibration are limited, whilst the effectiveness is often significantly less as compared with modern buildings. This adds to the vulnerability to, and impacts of, noise on many residents of Bath.

Many of the areas of Bath covered by FoBRA RAs already experience night-time noise from flights approaching Bristol Airport, resulting in sleep disturbance.

FoBRA strongly opposes any increase in the number of night-time flights over Bath, and notes that this requires not merely no change in the current cap on such flights, but also meaningful measures to ensure that the increase in overall flights is not accompanied by any increase in "dispensations" from the cap.

Accordingly, with reference to the Master Plan consultation:

- **FoBRA strenuously objects to any increase in the number of night flights** pursuant to the proposed expansion.
- FoBRA submits **it is essential to restrict the use of "dispensations"** to ensure the night-time limit is genuinely observed.
- **Bristol Airport ATC should avoid routing flights over Bath, particularly during the night period**, unless an emergency.

FoBRA Committee