

RELAS Guide

Urgent: Submit Your Feedback on Luton Airport Expansion DCO Planning Application

You have **only until September 6th, 2024**, to submit your feedback on the critical issues surrounding Luton Airport's proposed expansion and airspace changes. This is your chance to influence decisions that will impact our communities for years to come.

Important Links and Submission Details

- **Details on the latest stage of the process can be found here:**
[National Infrastructure Consenting](#)
- **Feedback must be submitted via email to:**
lutonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Why You Should Act Now

We strongly believe that the two major issues currently under review—the **AD6 Airspace Design Consultation** and the **DCO Planning Application for Luton Airport expansion**—are **closely linked**. However, the regulatory bodies responsible for these matters have different roles:

- **The CAA (Civil Aviation Authority)** handles airspace safety and compliance with aviation rules.
- **The Planning Inspectorate** oversees infrastructure planning, including expansion proposals like Luton's.

Despite their separate remits, it is clear that **airspace and infrastructure cannot be considered in isolation**. No expansion should proceed until the AD6 airspace design is proven safe and effective.

Key Concerns:

1. Timing of the Consultation

The timing of this consultation, taking place during the peak holiday season, is highly problematic. It limits the ability of residents, representatives, and politicians to provide meaningful input.

2. Misaligned Deadlines

There is a troubling mismatch in deadlines:

- **September 6, 2024:** Deadline for the DCO Planning Application.
- **September 11, 2024:** Deadline for feedback on the AD6 Airspace Design Consultation.

This raises serious concerns about whether decisions on infrastructure will be made before the airspace design has been fully evaluated, potentially compromising safety and the process's integrity.

3. Poor Performance Metrics

Eurocontrol data already identifies Luton as the **worst-performing London airport** in terms of noise pollution and environmental impact. Approving further expansion under these conditions is irresponsible unless substantial improvements are made.

4. Impact on Local Communities

Residents in **Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire** have reported severe disruption due to the current AD6 airspace design. These issues must be resolved before any expansion is considered.

5. Tactical Airspace Behaviors

There is growing concern over the **tactical behaviors** observed in Luton's airspace, with flights occurring at all hours, often just minutes apart. **No increase in arrivals should be approved** until Luton Airport complies with the AD6 consultation standards.

6. Infrastructure and Airspace Are Inseparable

While the **Planning Inspectorate** and the **CAA** may claim to have distinct roles, the truth is that Luton's expansion plans **cannot** be considered in isolation from the airspace issues. The airspace must be safe, effective, and fit for purpose before any infrastructure decisions are made.

Call to Action:

We urge the **Planning Inspectorate** to review the **RELAS report** (RELAS_AD6_Stage_7_Common_Submission_version_1.0), which has already been submitted to the CAA as part of the AD6 consultation. This report provides **critical evidence** of the problems caused by the current airspace design, as well as detailed recommendations for improvement.

The **Planning Inspectorate must hold Luton Airport accountable** for addressing these concerns before any infrastructure approvals are granted.

Submit Your Feedback by September 6th

This is your last opportunity to ensure that both the airspace and infrastructure are safe and suitable for our communities. Your voice matters—let's make sure it's heard.

- **Email your feedback to:** lutonairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
- **Deadline:** September 6th, 2024

Together, we can make a difference.

