



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Mr Tim Mills  
Executive Head of Property and Growth  
Rushmoor Borough Council  
Farnborough Rd  
Farnborough  
GU14 7JU

11<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
GS08493

Dear Tim,

**Re: 25/00615/REV | Farnborough Airport (FAL), Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6XA**

I am writing to formally object to the above-named application in respect of proposed changes to operations at Farnborough Airport.

I fully recognise that the airport is a commercial operation and that the purpose of this application is to provide greater operational flexibility and, ultimately, support its commercial growth. That is not unusual in itself. However, where that growth materially changes when the airport operates, the type of aircraft that can operate, and the level of impact experienced by surrounding communities, the planning process must be especially rigorous, transparent and trusted by the public.

The application seeks to increase non-weekday aircraft movements from 8,900 to 13,500 per year, alongside an increase in the number of heavier aircraft permitted to operate at weekends from 270 to 405 annually. Although the overall annual movements cap is retained, this clearly represents a substantial redistribution of activity into weekends and public holidays, combined with a significant intensification of the heaviest category of aircraft during those same sensitive periods. Weekends and public holidays are the times when families are at home, children are outdoors, and communities reasonably expect a quieter environment.

I have been contacted by a large number of constituents across the wider area, and particularly from Farnham and villages beneath the established flight paths, who are concerned that this shift towards greater weekend activity fundamentally changes the character of the airport's operations. The airport has historically been presented as a business-focused facility aligned primarily with weekday economic activity. Many residents now question how a very substantial uplift in weekend flying, especially by heavier aircraft, continues to sit within that original justification.

Alongside this, I have also received extensive correspondence from constituents who are worried about whether the current Environmental Impact Assessment properly reflects the geographic reach of the airport's operations and their lived experience beneath the flight paths. I am not in a position to arbitrate on the technical merits of detailed environmental modelling. However, it is clear that there is widespread public unease about whether the

*Representing Farnham, Whitehill and Bordon, Haslemere, Bramshott and Liphook, Hindhead and Beacon Hill, Grayshott, Wrecclesham and Rowledge, Hale and Badshot Lea, Tilford, Frensham, Dockenfield, Churt, Grayswood, Headley and Headley Down, Lindford, Passfield, Conford and Greatham*

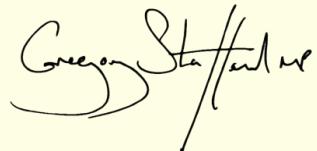
impacts of increased weekend and heavier aircraft movements are being assessed only in the immediate vicinity of the airfield, rather than across the full area affected by regular overflight. That concern is heightened by the scale and complexity of the application material and by the relatively short window available for public engagement.

In my view, these proposals go well beyond a minor technical adjustment. They would significantly reshape when the airport operates, the intensity of heavier aircraft movements at weekends, and the framework through which safety is managed. For many residents, this feels like a clear step towards a different pattern of use, with tangible consequences for weekend amenity, tranquillity and quality of life.

I also note that the public material accompanying this application states that the proposals do not accord with the development plan. In those circumstances, it is essential that any approval is supported by compelling and clearly evidenced material considerations, tested transparently through a consultation process that commands public trust.

For all of these reasons, and reflecting the scale of concern I am hearing from across the constituency and neighbouring communities, I urge the Council to refuse this application.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Stafford MP".

**Gregory Stafford MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Farnham and Bordon**