

 West Lothian Council	Environmental Health		SUBJECT: Aircraft Noise
		Food Safety/Food Hygiene	NUMBER: PH14
REVISED: November 2019		Health & Safety	
	✓	Public Health	
STATUS: PUBLIC ADVICE	✓	Pollution Control	
		Pest Control/Dog Warden	

Information Sheet PH14 Information Sheet: Aircraft Noise

As a local authority, we have no direct means of control over air traffic noise. Most types of non-domestic noise complaint are dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, aircraft are specifically excluded from the scope of this legislation.

There are controls available via the Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and management of Environmental Noise, which was published on 18th July 2002). This is implemented in Scotland by the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Noise maps for the Edinburgh Airport area are available via the following link;
<https://noise.environment.gov.scot/>

To make complaints about noise from the airport:

- call 0800 731 3397,
- email noise@edinburghairport.com, or
- for other means of complaining see https://noiselab.casper.aero/edi/#page=complaints_temp.

We would encourage you to report any specific aircraft flights which cause problems, which can then be directly investigated, using systems to which the airport has access.

Edinburgh Airport can accurately tell after the event the route any particular aircraft took and it's height at any particular point in it's approach or take off. This allows the airport operator to penalise aircraft which diverge from the authorised flight path. Further information on noise at Edinburgh airport is available at the following link;
<https://noiselab.casper.aero/edi/#page=home>

There are a few practical notes worth adding:

- Aircraft always take off into the prevailing wind. Therefore, it is usually departing flights which cross Livingston, by which time they are at considerable height to minimise noise problems. When there is no wind or it is easterly, the aircraft normally land from the west, which will generally mean that they are lower, but under much less power.

- The noise from individual aircraft has dropped considerably in the last decade. However, flights to and from Edinburgh have doubled. The net effect is a slight reduction in aircraft noise in West Lothian.
- Edinburgh Airport is still used occasionally by military aircraft, which are considerably noisier than commercial aircraft. Some can be large and very noisy even on approach.

We hope that this answers any concerns and explains the reasons why West Lothian Council cannot directly intervene.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Health on 01506 282500 or environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk, and we will try to help.