TAG Farnborough Airport

Noise and Track Monitoring Scheme

1. Introduction

1.1 In compliance with the Town and Country Planning Act Section 106 Agreement, TAG Farnborough Airport (TFA) operates an integrated Noise and Track Monitoring System (NTMS). The NTMS comprises of two fixed Noise Monitoring Terminals, a single portable Noise Monitoring Terminal and a software package (ANOMS 8). The NTMS system is operated 24 hours a day.

1.2 In compliance with the Town and Country Planning Act Section 106 Agreement, TFA provide real time access to the NMTS for the local planning authority, Rushmoor Borough Council.

2. Noise Monitoring and Reporting

2.1 TFA shall maintain continuous operation of two fixed Noise Monitoring Terminals (NMTs) located at the agreed locations of Tweseldown Race Course (No.2) and Farnborough College of Technology (No. 3). In the event that maintenance on either system is required and data loss may result, TFA shall inform the planning authority as soon as operationally practicable.

2.2 The fixed NMTs shall be configured to record “noise events” that result from aircraft operating at the Airport. Distinction between community noise (non-aviation) and aircraft noise shall be achieved through the operation of the NTMS software and used for reporting purposes.

2.3 Noise event data shall be reported within the TAG Environment Report, submitted to Rushmoor Borough Council twice annually and expressed as daily dB LAeq,16h for Aircraft, Community and Total Noise.

2.4 Noise event data from the two fixed NMTs shall be used to validate noise modelling assessments which are carried out on a six monthly basis using the Integrated Noise Modelling program (INM).

2.5 The portable NMT (No.1) shall be maintained in preparation for ad-hoc monitoring in connection with procedural trials for alternative Noise Abatement Procedures or in response to requests from groups or individuals in the surrounding community.

2.6 All NMTs shall be subject to full maintenance checks and certified calibration on an annual basis.

3. Track Monitoring

3.1 Track monitoring of flights at TFA shall be achieved through a secondary radar data feed to the NTMS. Aircraft up to an altitude of 10,000ft shall be captured by the NTMS, to include non-TAG operated flights where possible (aircraft without transponder equipment cannot be captured on the system). Recognition of different modes of operation (departure, arrival, transient) shall be achieved through use of the NTMS software.

3.2 In compliance with the requirements of the Section 106 Planning Agreement, all TFA operated flights shall be subject to a routine flight track auditing procedure. This procedure shall allow identification of flights that have infringed published operating procedures in terms of track or altitude where applicable.
3.3 All identified infringements of published operating procedures, identified through track auditing, shall be recorded on the TFA Infringement Database and shall be subject to internal investigation (using track mapping as evidence to aircraft operators). Aircraft operators notified of an infringement shall be required to acknowledge the notification, provide explanation of the occurrence and state the measures that will be implemented in order to ensure future compliance. Repeat infringements and failure to acknowledge and address such matters shall result in sanctions, to include limitations on or complete withdrawal of Airport access where appropriate.

3.4 Track monitoring shall routinely be employed in the identification of flights reported by the local community in the form of complaints (refer to the TFA Complaints Charter). Track data and findings from track auditing shall be used to identify reported flights (TAG and where possible non-TAG operated) and confirm the operational circumstances at the relevant time.

4. Reporting

4.1 Summaries of data from the Infringement Database shall be reported to Rushmoor Borough Council within the annual TAG Performance Monitoring Report and to the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC) within the TAG Report.

Miles Thomas
Environment Manager