



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12 August 2021

Dear Mr Cook

Re: East Midlands Freeport

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and for sharing the concerns of CPRE Nottinghamshire.

Please accept my apology for the delay in getting back to you. My office has been handling an unprecedented amount of pandemic related correspondence and your first letter was the victim of a problem in our mail divert and screening system. I can only apologise for this.

Firstly, you will be pleased to know that I have made representations to East Midlands Airport from constituents concerned by existing airport noise. Any aircraft departing from EMA are required to follow one of six initial flight paths, known as Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs), until they reach the minimum altitude of 5,000ft. These NPRs are designed to minimise the number of people impacted by aircraft noise, by diverting aircraft away from the most built-up areas.

I have also spoken to EMA about their existing night freight operations, as they already operate a substantial night-time cargo operation in place to meet customers' demands for express delivery.

The airport assured me that they are committed to reducing the disturbance caused by night flying. To this end, they have an established night noise policy that prohibits the scheduling of older, noisier aircraft from departing between 23:00 and 07:00. They have also invested heavily in phasing out noisier aircraft in favour of quieter alternatives, and in state-of-the-art noise and radar track monitoring systems.

I am glad to note that CPRE is not opposed to economic growth in the right places. As you point out, the East Midlands Freeport was promoted as a green development, generating high-skilled, sustainable jobs in fields like hydrogen technology, renewable energy and sustainable transport.

The Freeport will be pivotal in stimulating green investment. Proposals for a zero-carbon focussed research centre at Ratcliffe will pull industry and academic excellence from across the country to accelerate and commercialise innovation in low carbon technologies. The Freeport will accelerate innovation by enhancing collaboration between our universities, major businesses, key sectors, and public agencies to increase research and industrial clusters. This boost in R&D and investment improves existing processes, increases efficiency, and reduces costs way beyond the Freeport sites.

The East Midlands Freeport will support environmental transport shifts for some of the region's biggest businesses, moving from the road to rail freight and reducing carbon emissions.

In the case of green belt land, I am assured that the usual permissions will need to be granted and due diligence be paid to mitigate any environmental impacts from construction of the East Midlands Freeport. Government is due to outline further details on the freeport programme in due course.

I note you have provided your email address and I have sent a digital copy of this letter there. I encourage the use of email for future correspondence to prevent undue delays in future.

I trust this information will be of use to yourself and your members. I will of course stay close to this issue and liaise with stakeholders through my position on the Freeport Board.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Edwards MP
Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe