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Complaints about noise pollution at Southend Airport going down

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JUST 23 flights out of 28,546 were found to have breached strict noise regulations in a year.

A [Southend Airport](#) report also shows the number of complaints about noise pollution are going down, while the majority of complaints – more than 80 per cent – were put in by just ten persistent residents.

Your Vote

Is noise a real problem around the airport?

Yes:
42%

No:
58%

Despite the report, campaigners seeking compensation because of the expanded airport believe they still have a case.

Figures in the report reveal that at their peak, 600 complaints about noise were lodged in a month, but in February this year it was down to 150.

Of those, more than 80 per cent come from ten residents.

Staff at Southend Airport use a tracking system to log and record all complaints and investigate them individually.

Jo Marchetti, community affairs co-ordinator at the airport, said: “It’s my job to confirm if the planes are doing anything wrong and in all of the cases where people made complaints, that aircraft operated within the

controls that have been set. I try to explain this to people, but they are often not happy. We monitor any mistakes ourselves rather than just wait for calls from members of the public.”

Almost all of the 28,546 flights which landed or took off from Southend Airport between March last year to February this year met strict guidelines to follow selected noise preferential routes.

A total 23 flights breached the regulations in the past year, but none of these received complaints from members of the public. The guidelines insist that more than half of flights take off in the direction of [Rochford](#) rather than [Leigh](#), as the former has fewer homes.

In a bid to remain as quiet as possible, pilots cannot turn the aircraft until they have reached an altitude of 1,500ft.

John Fuller, spokesman for campaign group Stop Airport Expansion and Noise, said 300 residents living under the flight path were members of the group while 1,200 compensation claims have been submitted to the airport already.

He said: “The majority of residents living around the airport are really suffering as a result of the noise they are having to endure. A lot of people I have spoken to are particularly upset by flights leaving as early as 6am, which they see as really cruel and heartless.

“People complain a number of times but really don’t get very far. When they contact their local councillors they say it’s not a matter for them and tell them to contact the airport, so people are just giving up.”

Compensation claims are based primarily on the loss of value to homes. If successful, airport owners Stobart could have to pay out up to £40million.

Southend Airport boss [Alastair Welch](#) said: “What will be happening is over a period of time data will be collected showing whether there is or isn’t a reduction in property prices. That is not something which can be done yet.”