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## **An Open Letter to Our Local Community: Update on Airfield Operations and Noise Mitigation**

Dear Neighbours

The Snowdonia Aerospace Test Centre takes pride in being a part of the Llanbedr community. It is now recognised as the UK's leading Centre of Excellence for future flight / novel aerospace trials and testing and a significant asset to the UK in the development of the successful integration of drones and similar novel aircraft into our future daily lives and airspace. Of course historically and over many years the Airfield was used by the MOD for a range of varied and busy operations. However, we full appreciate that living near an active airfield requires a balance with the local community within which it is located. Recently, we have received feedback from some residents regarding an increase in aircraft noise, particularly during some early mornings, weekends, and bank holidays.

First and foremost, we want to apologise for any disruption this may have caused to your mornings, weekends and downtime.

The increase in early morning and weekend traffic has been driven primarily by a surge in drone developmental activities to support the UK contribution to Ukraine and a genuine increased readiness in uncertain times. You may well have seen the very recent announcement by the UK Government under the Defence Investment Plan which has significantly moved the focus of Defence onto drone development and the use of drones to support the UK defence sector. There is also a strong innovation push from the UK Government to support the use of drones for good including operations such as medical delivery, emergency surveillance, police, fire services amongst others. We are also at the forefront of the development of these operations.

While a high level of aviation activity is necessary to maintain operational delivery tempo and support the aforementioned, we recognize that efforts should be made, where possible, to minimize the impact on your daily lives.

### What We Are Doing

In direct response to your concerns, we have recently met with our resident drone operators and our air traffic team with a view to implementing an early Noise Action Plan. Moving forward, we are looking to introduce the following measures:

- **Restricted Operational Hours:** We are looking to implement a "Quiet Window" during which engine start-ups and departures will be restricted before 0700 on Monday to Friday and before 0900 on weekends and Bank Holidays and flying operations over land are to cease at 2000 on Monday to Friday and at 1700 on weekends and Bank Holidays.
- **Revised Flight Paths (Circuit Alterations):** Where possible aircraft will fly circuits toward the sea rather than inland when the prevailing wind permits.
- **Voluntary "No-Fly" Periods:** On Bank Holidays, we are looking to restrict the number of continuous training flights (circuit bumps-and-goes) to minimise the impact of any potential continuous noise disturbance

- Operator Education & Enforcement: Every drone team operating at the Snowdonia Aerospace Test Centre will receive an updated "Good Neighbour" briefing. Compliance with noise-abatement paths will be monitored, and any operators who are found to be repeatedly violating these guidelines will have their airfield privileges reviewed.
- Investment in Noise Measurement Tools: We are pursuing a research project with the Civil Aviation authority to measure and better understand the propagation of drone noise and its impact on surrounding areas. If we are successful with our application the project will include a public consultation workshop where local residents will have an opportunity to provide input into the research from a local resident perspective.
- Review of "Special Use Airspace": We are exploring expanding offshore testing areas over Cardigan Bay to shift more activity away from land. A formal application will be submitted to the CAA this summer.

#### Keeping the Dialogue Open

We are establishing a dedicated community liaison channel in order that residents can more easily reach us with specific feedback or concerns.

If you experience an unusual noise event, please let us know the date, time and approximate location by emailing [services@snowdoniaaeropsace.com](mailto:services@snowdoniaaeropsace.com). This data helps us track down specific operators and ensure compliance.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through these self-promoted adjustments. Our goal is to ensure that the Snowdonia Aerospace Test Centre remains a safe UK national asset providing local jobs and economic activity to many local businesses while respecting the comfort and peace of the local community within which it is located.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Paul", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Paul  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snowdonia Aerospace LLP