

# Toxins causing cases of illness in aircrew

**JOHN HOYTE, Chairman, Aerotoxic Association, Southam, Warwickshire.**

Your report on a plane diverted to Norwich airport after a fumes alert (EDP, August 15) described "a strange smell caused by 'unknown fumes'".

There are presently over 30 UK airline pilots medically grounded due to breathing toxic fumes in jet airliners with an illness termed Aerotoxic Syndrome,

which represents a variety of serious neurological complaints. You report that "there was no need for medical treatment" but that may not describe the eventual medical needs of the crew and passengers.

University College London calculated in 2006 that up to 196,000 UK passengers a year may be reporting their mysterious 'Jet lag type symptoms' to GPs after exposure and will often be

misdiagnosed and mistreated due to unawareness.

It is beyond comprehension that the government and airline industry can continue to suggest that the fumes are "unknown" when the jet oil from which they originate contains 3-5pc organophosphates, which have caused many sheep-dip farmers serious ill health. The toxins were finally identified in a Cranfield University study in May