

Heathrow and helicopters



Do helicopters land and take off from Heathrow?

Helicopters are not prevented from landing or taking off from Heathrow Airport but in practice very few do. Throughout 2010, there were 186 helicopter movements (93 departures and 93 arrivals). This compares to 454,800 movements of other aircraft over the same period.

Additionally, sometimes police or medical emergency helicopters may need to fly in the airspace around Heathrow airport and obviously emergency and compassionate flights may need to land here.

Helicopters may create noise disturbance to residents when in the area because they sound different and fly lower than the usual aircraft operating from Heathrow. They may also need to hover very close to the airport whilst they wait for clearance from Air Traffic Control to be able to fly over the airport.

Where can I find information on helicopters?

The Flight Evaluation Unit does not deal with enquiries regarding helicopters as we do not have access to information relating to their flights. However, if you wish to complain about helicopters or civil aircraft you should contact the Directorate of Airspace Policy. Their postal address, e-mail address and phone number is:

Telephone: 020 7453 6524/5

By post: Aviation Related Environmental Enquiries
Directorate of Airspace Policy
CAA House K6
45 - 59 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6TE

Email: aree@caa.co.uk

Our other factsheets

Please see our other fact sheets which provide information on:

- Arrivals
- Departures
- Go arounds
- Aircraft stacks
- Night flights
- Aircraft noise on the ground
- The legal overview.

Further information

If you would like further information, please contact the Flight Evaluation Unit:

By telephone: 0800 344 844

By e-mail: noise_complaints@baa.com

By post: Flight Evaluation Unit
Second Floor Meridian
The Compass Centre
Nelson Road
London Heathrow Airport
Hounslow
TW6 2GW

Website: Make an enquiry on our website:
www.heathrow.com/noise

Please note that the freephone telephone number is an answerphone between 4.30pm and 8.30am. Please leave your name, contact details and brief details of your enquiry. A member of the FEU will contact you as soon as possible. Between 8.30am and 4.30pm, your call will be answered whenever possible.