

Heathrow and helicopters



Do helicopters use land and take off from Heathrow?

Helicopters are not prevented from landing or taking off from Heathrow Airport but in practice very few do. Between July 2008 and June 2009, there were 326 helicopter movements (155 departures and 171 arrivals). This compares to 233,060 movements of other aircraft over the same period. This amounts to 0.1% of all movements being helicopters.

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 Department for Transport (DfT). Their address and phone number is:

Telephone: 020 794 45 435

By post: Department for Transport (DfT)
Noise Complaints
Zone 1/33
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DR

Our other factsheets

Please see out 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. Please leave you name, contact details and brief details of your enquiry. A member of the FEU will contact you as soon as possible.