

# NIGHT FLIGHTS

Since 1962, in response to increasing community concern about noise, the UK Government has tightened the rules on night flights.

However, the Government allows night flights because it sees them as being important for the well-being of the airline and travel industries as well as important for the UK economy as a whole.

Noise created by aircraft at night may cause more disturbances to some people because there is less background noise from other sources and the majority of people will be trying to sleep. Similarly, night noise may appear worse in the summer because people tend to sleep with windows open more frequently.

## IS THERE A BAN ON NIGHT FLIGHTS?

There is not - and has never been - a ban on night flights at London Stansted Airport. Stansted has always been a 24 hour operation airport. However, in order to try to balance the interests of the local communities and those of the airports users, there are restrictions and rules regarding night flights.

## WHO MAKES THE RESTRICTIONS?

The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for making the restrictions on the types of aircraft that can be scheduled to fly at night. In setting the restrictions, the aim has been to maintain a balance between the need to protect local communities from too much aircraft noise at night and the operation of services where they provide economic benefits.

London Stansted does not set the rules but strictly monitors compliance with all Government restrictions in force, reporting regularly to the DfT and the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC) - an independent consultative forum made up of representatives of local authorities, councillors, business, airlines and the DfT.

## WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

Aircraft are certified by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) according to the levels of noise they produce. They are classified separately for both take off and landing.

CERTIFIED NOISE LEVEL (EPNDB)	QUOTA COUNT
More than 101.9	QC/16
99 - 101.9	QC/8
96 - 98.9	QC/4
93 - 95.9	QC/2
90 - 92.9	QC/1
87 - 89.9	QC/0.5
84 - 86.9	QC/0.25

The night flying restrictions are divided into summer and winter seasons. They consist of a movements limit and a quota count system. This means that points are allocated to different aircraft types according to how noisy they are. The noisier the aircraft type, the higher the points allocated. This provides an incentive for airlines to use quieter aircraft types.

	MOVEMENT LIMIT	QUOTA LIMIT
Summer 2009	7,000	4,800
Winter 2009	5,000	3,390
Summer 2010	7,000	4,750
Winter 2010	5,000	3,350
Summer 2011	7,000	4,700
Winter 2011	5,000	3,310
Summer 2012	7,000	4,650



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## NIGHT PERIOD AND NIGHT QUOTA PERIOD

The 'night period' is 23:00 to 07:00 hours (local) during which period the noisiest types of aircraft may not be scheduled to land or take-off. The 'night quota period' is from 23:30 to 06:00 hours (local), during which period aircraft movements are restricted by a limit on the number of movements with noise quotas as an additional measure. The number of movements and quota counts allowed are set for each season.

## ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS OR DISPENSATIONS?

The Secretary of State has the power to state circumstances in which movements may be disregarded from the night restrictions. This is in exceptional circumstances only.

## HOW IS COMPLIANCE TO THE RESTRICTIONS MONITORED?

Night flights are closely monitored by the airport on a daily basis. We provide the STACC and the DfT, with regular reports on the use of the movement limits and the noise quotas, details of any dispensations or exemptions granted and reports on any movements by the two noisiest groups of aircraft during the night period.

All dispensations granted have to be reported to the DfT in writing within a maximum of one week from when the flight took place.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information, please contact the airport:

- Website: Make an enquiry, view an aircraft track or log a noise complaint:  
[www.stanstedairport.com/noise](http://www.stanstedairport.com/noise)
- By e-mail: [stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com](mailto:stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com)
- By telephone: **0800 243 788** (answerphone service only)
- By post: Flight Evaluation Unit  
Enterprise House  
London Stansted Airport  
Stansted  
Essex CM24 1QW



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