

# Environmental Information

## Night noise and night flying

Aircraft noise is an important issue for local communities and one that we see as a priority.

The principle source of noise generated by the Airport's operation is aircraft noise. This is particularly so at night when levels of background noise are generally lower.

The Airport endeavours to use all possible means of minimising aircraft noise impact through a range of policies and procedures. These policies are strict and comprehensive, reflecting the high priority that is afforded to the control of aircraft noise.

For reasons of operational safety, aircraft take off and land into the wind.

As the prevailing wind comes from the west, around 75% of arriving aircraft will approach Bournemouth Airport from the east and 25% will approach from the west.

Similarly around 75% of aircraft departing from Bournemouth take off to the west and 25% take off towards the east.

### The Government's regulatory framework

In seeking to minimise the impact of aircraft noise, the Airport is bound by the Government's regulatory framework which follow the principles set out by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Known as the 'balanced approach', this requires detailed consideration of the contribution to noise reduction that can be made by each of the following measures:

- Reducing aircraft noise at source
- Airport land-use planning
- Noise abatement operational procedures
- Restrictions on the use of noisier aircraft

### Royal Mail and newspaper flights

At Bournemouth Airport, the aircraft flying at night are either Royal Mail flights, a mail/newspaper service to the Channel Islands, or returning passenger aircraft.

The pattern of Royal Mail and newspaper flights has remained constant for the past 20 years.

### Limits on night time operations

There is no ban on night flights in the UK but, in conjunction with our airline colleagues, we are continually implementing and improving a very wide ranging programme to reduce the impact of aircraft noise, with a strong emphasis on night noise levels.

In addition, as part of the planning process for the new departures terminal, Christchurch Borough Council imposed limits on the number and type of aircraft which can operate at Bournemouth during the night time period.

The Airport submits an annual breakdown of night flights to the Council and this is also available on our website.

*(Note: an 'aircraft movement can either be a take off or landing).*

**Carbon  
neutral  
by 2012**