

## Departures Performance

### Track Keeping

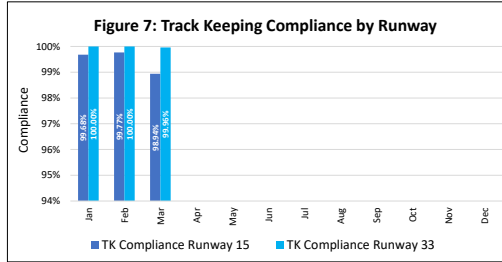
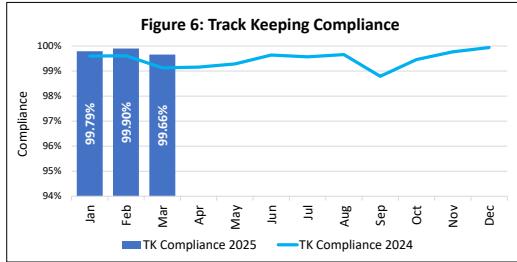


Figure 10 shows a map of the five noise preferential routes (NPR's) for departures in use at Birmingham Airport. The table below lists the altitudes up to which aircraft are required to stay within the noise preferential route, in order to be classed as 'on-track'. Once above the minimum vectoring altitude, air traffic control may provide pilots with vectors to facilitate a more direct path towards their destination.

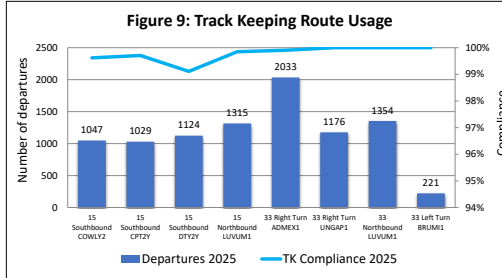
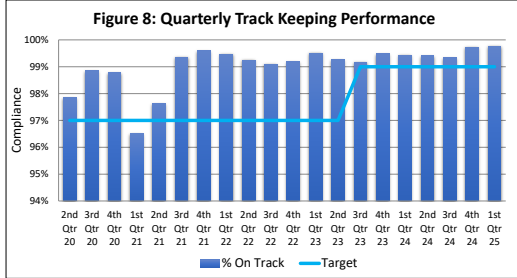
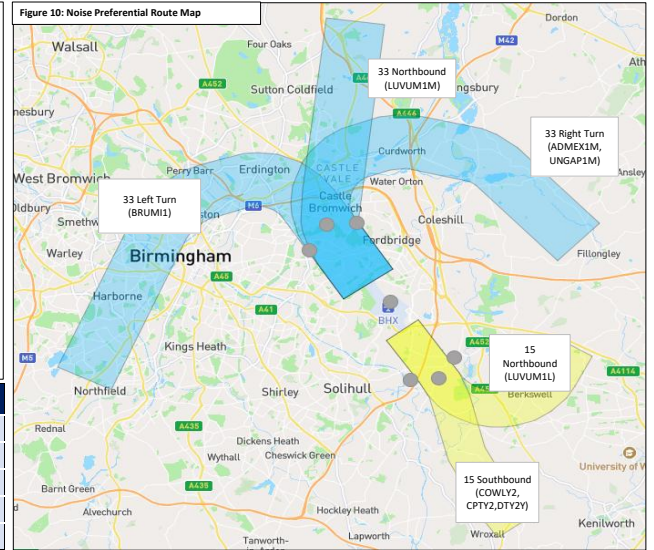
Figure 6 shows the overall departure track keeping compliance for 2025 vs 2024. Track keeping compliance in Q1 2025 remained in excess of 99% across all months.

Figure 7 shows rolling track keeping compliance by runway, with a marginal difference between R33 and R15, with track keeping compliance higher for operations departing from Runway 33. This is due to there being more total departures off R33, as seen in the Runway Statistics section of this report.

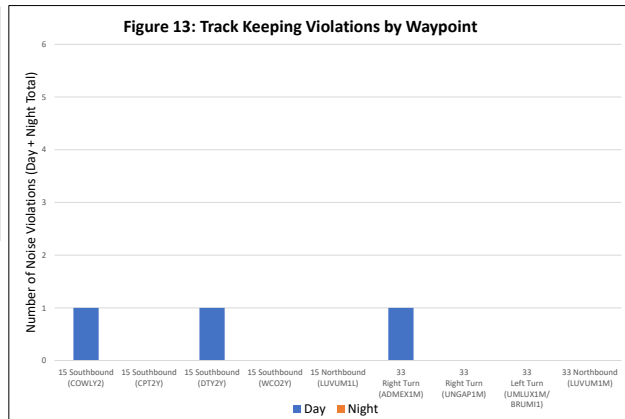
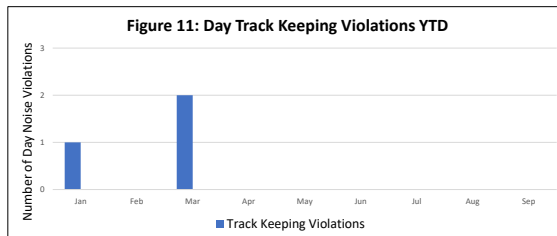
Figure 8 shows quarterly track keeping performance vs target. Track keeping has exceeded 96% consistently since 2018 and has met target for all quarters except Q1 2021. It should be noted that from Q3 2023 the track keeping target has risen from 97% to 99%.

Figure 9 shows 2025 YTD route usage and the associated track-keeping compliance. Track keeping YTD is above 94% for all routes. The routes most utilised were R33 Right-turn (ADMEX1M/ UNGAP1M), R33 Northbound (LUVUM1L) and R15 Southbound (COWLY2, CPTY2, DTY2Y) consecutively.

Routes	Minimum Vectoring Altitude
15 Southbound (COWLY2, CPTY2, DTY2Y)	4000 ft
15 Northbound (LUVUM1L)	3000 ft
33 Right Turn (ADMEX1M/ UNGAP1M)	3000 ft
33 Left Turn (BRUM1)	3000 ft
33 Northbound (LUVUM1M)	3000 ft



### Track Keeping Violations



Birmingham Airport operates a fining regime for departing aircraft who violate the parameters of our Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs). Aircraft who have not had permission granted to them by our Air Traffic Control team to leave their designated NPR early are issued a surcharge. There are two track-keeping violation surcharges: a daytime charge, levied to offending aircraft operating between 0600-2329 hours, and a night-time charge for those operating between 2330-0559 hours.

Aircraft will only be granted permission to deviate from their NPR prior to reaching minimum vectoring altitude according to weather, traffic, medical emergencies, or other safety related concerns.

Figure 11 shows monthly daytime track keeping violations since this mechanism came into effect on 1st April 2024. There have been 3 track keepings violations for the year to date. The details of which can be found in the table below.

Figure 12 shows monthly night time track keeping violations since this mechanism came into effect on 1st April 2024. There have been no night time track keeping violations for the year to date.

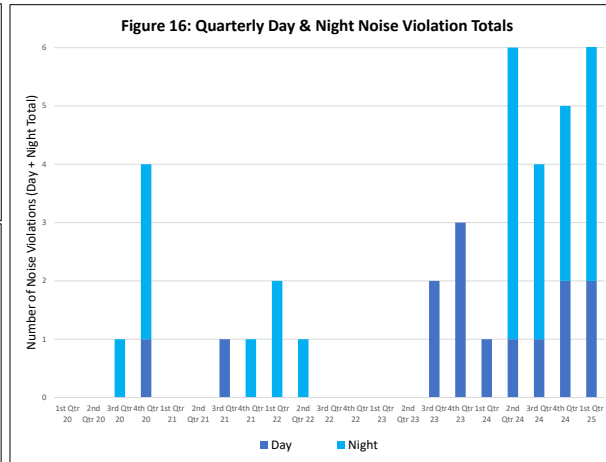
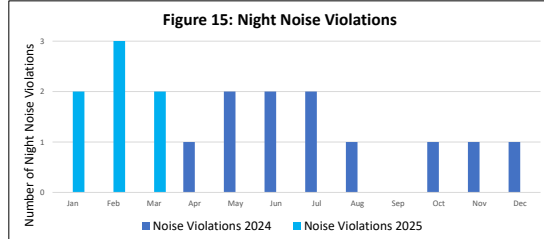
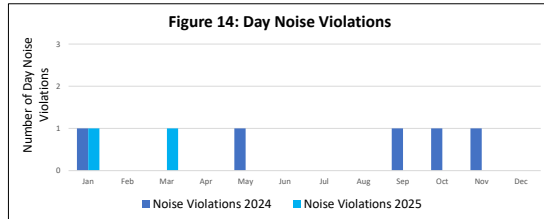
Figure 13 shows quarterly day and night track keeping violations by waypoint for the year to date 2025. ADMEX1M, DTY2Y and COWLY2 have seen one daytime violation.

Full details of our track keeping violation surcharging mechanism can be found within our Fees and Charges document, publicly available on our website [here](#).

Date & Time (GMT)	Waypoint	Flight No.	Airline	Aircraft	Runway	Amount	Paid (Yes/No)	Type
14/01/2025 at 07:30	COWLY2	FRF140	FRF	AT72	15	£800	Yes	Day
17/03/2025 at 10:18	DTY2Y	SPAIN	SPA	C66X	15	£800	No	Day
28/03/2025 at 07:29	ADMEX1	BID52B	SW4	SW4	33	£800	Yes	Day

## Departures Performance Continued

### Noise Violations



Birmingham Airport operates a fining regime for noisy aircraft departing from the airfield. There are two violation level limits: a daytime limit of 90dB(A), operational between 0600-2329 hours and a more stringent night-time limit of 81dB(A) (reduced from 83dB from 1st April 2024), operational between 2330-0559 hours. If a departing aircraft registers a noise level above this at our centreline noise monitors (Noise Monitors 1 and 2), the airline is surcharged an amount equivalent to a full runway charge, thus deterring noisier aircraft from operating. All funds from night noise violations are placed into the Community Trust Fund, a registered charity that benefits projects in the local community.

Figure 14 shows monthly daytime noise violations, comparing 2024 to 2025. There were five daytime noise violations in 2024. There were two daytime noise violations in the 1st Quarter of 2025. The details of which can be found in the table below.

Figure 15 shows monthly night noise violations, comparing 2024 to 2025. There were 11 night noise violations in 2024. There were eight night noise violations in the 1st Quarter of 2025. The details of which can be found in the table below.

Figure 16 shows quarterly day and night noise violations from Quarter 1 2020 to Quarter 1 2025. Quarter 2 2024 saw the first night noise violation since since Quarter 2 2022 and the peak number of night noise violations (five). Peak day noise violations occurred in Quarter 4 2023, with three.

Full details of our runway charging mechanisms can be found within our Fees and Charges document, publicly available on our website [here](#). For daytime noise violations a surcharge of £750 is levied, with provisions for an extra £170 per full decibel over the 90 dB(A) limit. For night noise violations a full runway charge of £16.34 per tonne is levied, with provisions for an extra £170 per full decibel over the 81 dB(A) limit.

Date & Time (GMT)	NMT	Max. Level dB(A)	Flight No.	Airline	Aircraft	Runway	Amount	Paid (Yes/No)	Type
14/01/2025 at 10:48	2	90.6	N919CA	CMB	B744	15	£750	Yes	Day
31/01/2025 at 05:47	2	81.1	FR2151	RJR	B738	15	£1,174.85	Yes	Night
31/01/2025 at 05:58	2	82.5	FR2911	RJR	B738	15	£1,344.85	Yes	Night
01/02/2025 at 05:58	2	81.8	FR3901	RJR	B738	15	£1,094.62	Yes	Night
07/02/2025 at 05:48	1	82.4	FR2911	RJR	B738	33	£1,264.62	Yes	Night
07/02/2025 at 05:51	1	81.5	FR2151	RJR	B738	33	£1,094.62	Yes	Night
26/02/2025 at 05:56	2	81.3	ERBAQ	PVV	B742	15	£6,173.94	Yes	Night
13/03/2025 at 17:27	1	91.9	SRR712	SRR	B763	33	£3,053.62	No	Day
14/03/2025 at 05:53	1	81.1	FR2911	RJR	B738	33	£1,094.62	No	Night
17/03/2025 at 05:50	1	81.1	FR2151	RJR	B738	33	£1,094.62	No	Night

## Ground Noise - Engine Ground Running

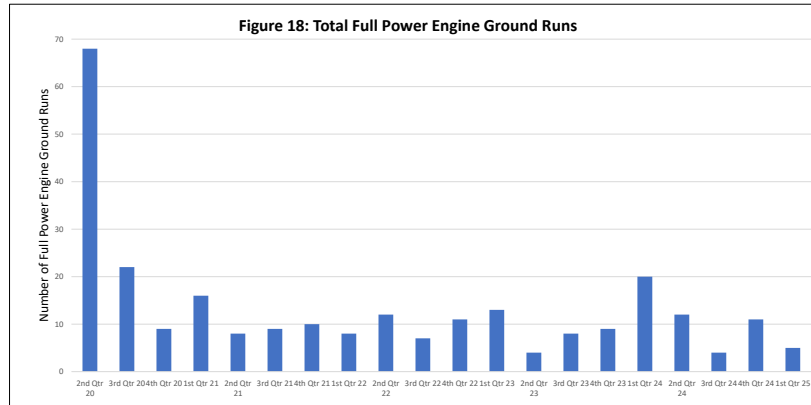
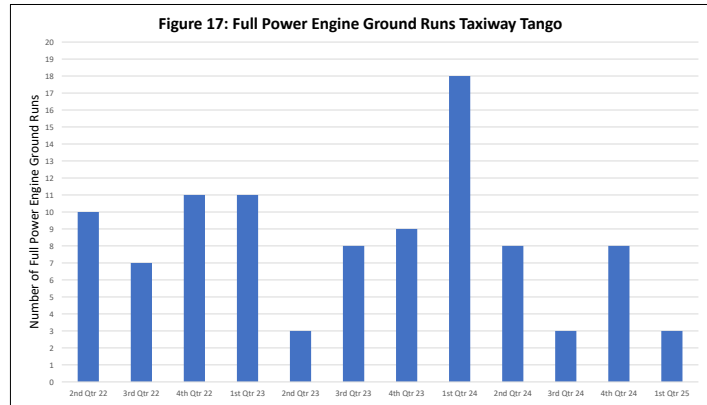
Engine Ground Running is required by airlines following essential aircraft maintenance and only takes place when absolutely necessary for safety reasons, in line with our Engine Ground Running Policy.

No Engine Ground Running may take place without the prior written permission of the Airfield Duty Manager (ADM), with the exception of check starts and ground idle. Full power engine ground running is not permissible between the hours of 2300 and 0600 (0800 on Sundays). In addition, no full power Engine Ground Running is permitted between 1030 and 1230 hours on Sundays and Good Fridays.

Any full-power Engine Ground Running conducted within the Morning Shoulder Period (MSP) which is between 0600 and 0700 hours (0600 to 0800 hours on a Sunday) has an associated Morning Shoulder Period noise level assessment carried out. There have been no full power Engine Ground Runs carried out in the Morning Shoulder Period since the 2nd quarter of 2019.

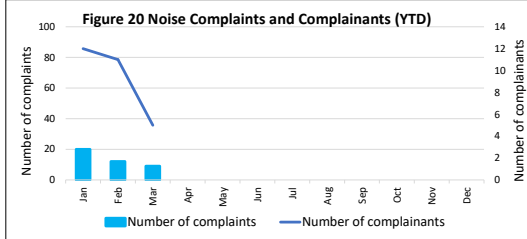
Figure 17 shows a quarterly profile of the number of full power Engine Ground Runs conducted on Taxiway Tango. Tango is located to the East of the airfield and Engine Ground Runs will only take place here between the hours of 07:00 and 20:00.

Figure 18 shows the quarterly profile of full power Engine Ground Runs since the 2nd Quarter of 2020. The second quarter of 2020 saw the highest number of full power engine ground runs with 68, each quarter following this has seen the number remain below 22.



# Aircraft Activity Complaints

## Complaints - 2025

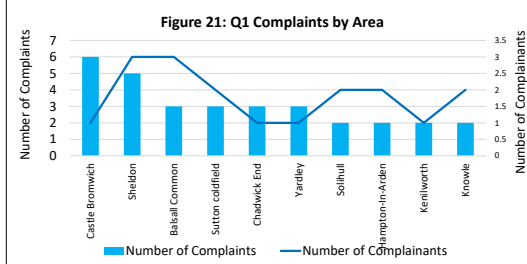


In Quarter 1 2025, 41 aircraft complaints were received from 26 individual correspondents (complainants), who collectively contacted the airport on 30 separate occasions.

When compared to Quarter 1 2024 there has been a 30.5% decrease in the number of aircraft complaints received and an 8.3% increase in the number of complainants.

**Figure 20** illustrates the number of noise complaints received by month for 2025 YTD. In Q1, January saw the highest number of complaints (20) and the highest number of complainants (12).

**Figure 21** (below left) provides a breakdown of complaints and complainants by area of origin for Q1 2025, for the top ten areas of complaint. Castle Bromwich is the area from which we received the most complaints in Q1 2025 with 6 complaints from 2 complainants.



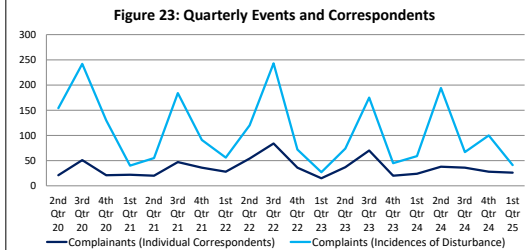
**Figure 22** (right) is a map showing the distribution of individual complainants, as well as the tracks of all movements in Q1 2025.

It should also be noted that during Q1 2025, three persistent complainants have been excluded from the statistics in the figures shown, as per the Birmingham Airport Complaints Policy and as reported to the Airport Consultative Committee. These complainants raised a further 555 complaints in Q1 2025.

**Figure 22: Map showing Quarter 1 Tracks & Complainants By Area**



## Complaints - Trend Analysis

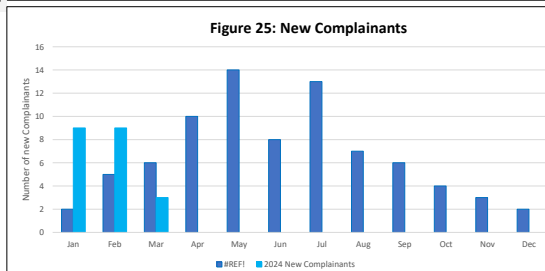
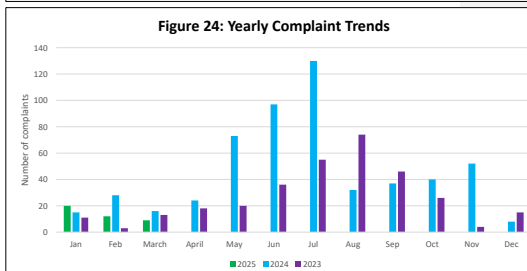


**Figure 23** (left) shows quarterly complaints and complainant numbers and trends over a five year period, showing a peak in complaints and complainants at Q3 2022.

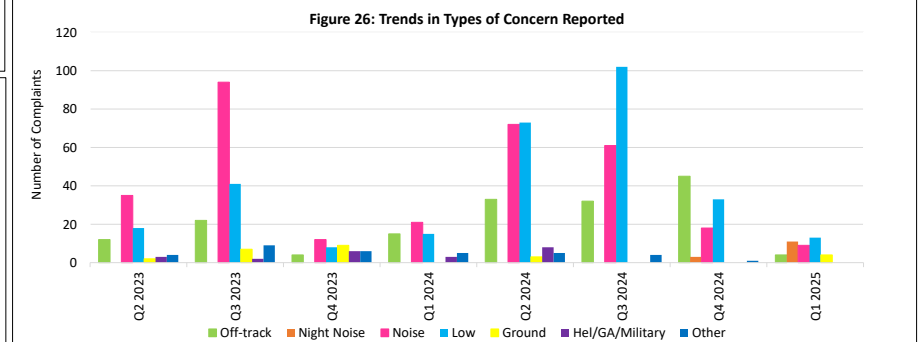
**Figure 24** (below left) shows a comparison between the number of complaints per month for 2025, 2024 and 2023. January 2025 shows an increase when compared with the same month in 2023 and 2024, while February shows a decrease on 2024 but an increase on 2023. March shows a decrease on 2024 and 2023.

**Figure 25** (below) shows the number of new complainants for 2024 and 2025, with the largest number of new complainants seen in May 2024 (14).

**Figure 26** (below right) shows noise complaints broken down by concern category (Noise, Off-Track, Low Flying Aircraft, Ground Noise, Helicopter/General Aviation/ Military, Other) by quarter. In Q1 2025 the category with the most complaints was Low aircraft with 13 complaints, the category with the fewest complaints was Helicopter/General Aviation/ Military with 0. The table (right) shows noise complaints by concern category reported, this year vs last year rolling. In December 2024 a new concern type category was added: "Night Noise".



Concern Type	2nd Qtr 2024	2nd Qtr 2023	3rd Qtr 2024	3rd Qtr 2023	4th Qtr 2024	4th Qtr 2023	1st Qtr 2025	1st Qtr 2024	Last 12 months	Previous 12 Months
Off Track	33	12	32	22	45	4	4	15	114	53
Noise	72	35	61	94	18	12	9	21	160	162
Night Noise	0	0	0	0	3	0	11	0	14	0
Low	73	18	102	41	33	8	13	15	221	82
Ground Noise	3	2	0	7	0	9	4	0	7	18
Hel/GA/Military	8	3	0	2	0	6	0	3	8	14
Other	5	4	4	9	1	6	0	5	10	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>353</b>



## Airlines & Air Traffic

### Airline Noise Performance

Rank by ATM	Airline Name	Total Movements	CDA Performance	Rank (CDA)	Track Keeping Performance	Rank (TK)
1	Ryanair	4073	97.68%	2	99.75%	3
2	EasyJet	2572	90.91%	11	99.92%	2
3	Jet2.com	2346	94.61%	6	99.92%	2
4	TUI	1276	94.99%	4	100.00%	1
5	KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	803	91.52%	9	99.50%	6
6	Emerald Airlines (UK)	755	91.25%	10	100.00%	1
7	Air France	555	74.01%	20	99.64%	4
8	Emerald Airlines	518	86.87%	16	99.61%	5
9	Loganair	515	92.64%	8	100.00%	1
10	Lufthansa	490	87.80%	14	100.00%	1
11	EasyJet Europe	391	92.86%	7	99.49%	7
12	Emirates	355	84.75%	19	98.31%	9
13	Turkish Airlines	351	94.89%	5	100.00%	1
14	EasyJet Switzerland	347	87.36%	15	99.42%	8
15	Aer Lingus	301	88.08%	13	100.00%	1
16	Lufthansa City	259	85.27%	18	100.00%	1
17	Eurowings	220	85.59%	17	100.00%	1
18	Swiss	194	88.57%	12	100.00%	1
19	Ryanair UK	188	98.95%	1	100.00%	1
20	Qatar Airways	184	95.65%	3	100.00%	1

The table to the left shows airline noise performance for the top 20 airlines by total ATM's. Airlines are ranked by the number of movements for Q1 2025. The ranking within each metric is also presented.

The methodology used to calculate the two metrics that form the airline noise performance table are described below. In order to drive continuous improvement and to help showcase airline performance in relation to noise, this table has been developed and is presented to airlines on a quarterly basis through the Operation Pathfinder programme. In collaboration with airlines, we have identified operational metrics which are being monitored and reported against. These metrics will develop over time in collaboration with the airlines. Please note, from Q3 2023 our track keeping target has been increased from 97% to 99%.

Continuous Descent Approaches (CDA) and Track Keeping (TK) are operational metrics. Airlines with more than ten movements per week during Q3 2023 are included in the ranking. Airlines with CDA or Track Keeping performance in green have met our CDA (96%) and Track Keeping (99%) targets. Airlines with CDA or Track Keeping performance in the red or amber range will be considered as a priority for engagement and we will work with them to improve their operational performance.

Continuous Descent Approaches (CDA) Performance is the first operational metric in the airline noise performance table and relates to the vertical profiles flown during arrival. CDA performance is equal to the proportion of arrivals that meet the criteria for CDA, i.e., no level segment longer than 2.5 nautical miles below the altitude of 7,000ft. Continuous descent approaches reduce the noise impact because they require significantly less engine thrust, which leads to reduced emissions of air pollutants and noise, with the aircraft staying higher for longer. Airport-wide CDA performance will also be presented separately in this report.

RAG definition: **Green** ≥ 96% **96% < Amber** ≤ 85% **Red** < 85%

Track Keeping (TK) Performance Track keeping performance is the second operational metric in the airline noise performance table and applies to the lateral departure track. All departures are required to stay within the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) designed to take departing aircraft over the least populated areas. Track keeping performance is equal to the proportion of departures that stay within the NPRs until they reach the required altitude of 3,000ft or 4,000ft depending on the route. Airport-wide Track Keeping performance is also presented separately in this report.

RAG definition: **Green** ≥ 99% **99% < Amber** ≤ 95% **Red** < 95%

### Runway Statistics

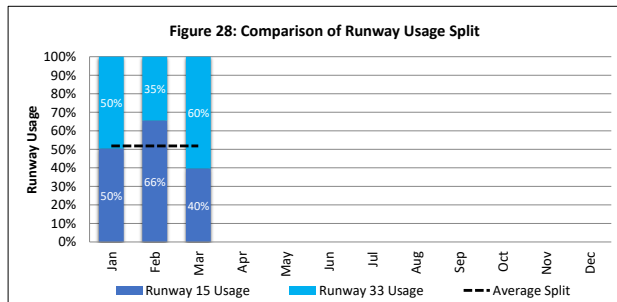
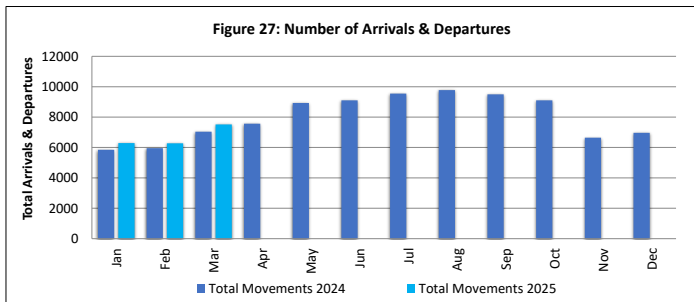


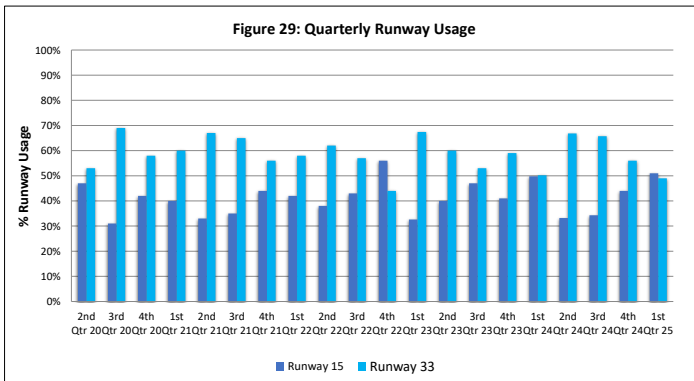
Figure 30 (right) Birmingham Airport has one runway which operates in two directions, known as Runway 15 and Runway 33; the direction of operation is primarily dependent upon meteorological conditions.

Where winds are below five knots, we operate our 'Preferential Runway' Policy, this is when Air Traffic Control will generally direct arrivals onto Runway 33 to minimise the risk of wake vortex strikes. Wake vortices are rotating columns of air generated by arriving aircraft as they pass through the air. Infrequently and in certain still, calm conditions they can cause damage to roofs. Although vortex strikes are rare, the Preferential Runway Policy minimises the risk to the large number of properties located to the north of the airport underneath the R15 centreline by directing arrivals onto R33, where there are very few properties at risk. Taken together, wind direction and the Preferential Runway policy explain why Runway 33 is utilised more than Runway 15.

Figure 27 (top left) shows the total number of air transport movements (ATM's) (both arrivals and departures) for 2024 and 2025. January, February and March saw an increase in movements in Q1 of 2025 vs 2024.

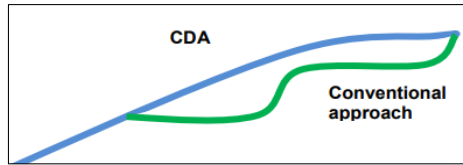
Figure 28 (top middle) shows monthly runway usage % for 2025. The average split (dotted line) is also shown. For 2025 YTD the average split is 52% R15 and 48% R33.

Figure 29 (bottom left) shows quarterly runway usage over a 5-year period. Over Q1 of 2025 the average runway split is 51% R15 and 49% R33. The number of Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) by runway for the 1st Qtr 2025 was 10,085 ATMs on Runway 15 and 9,833 ATMs on Runway 33.



## Arrivals Performance + Helicopters

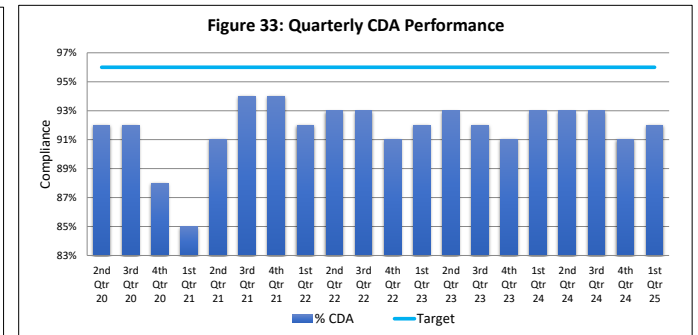
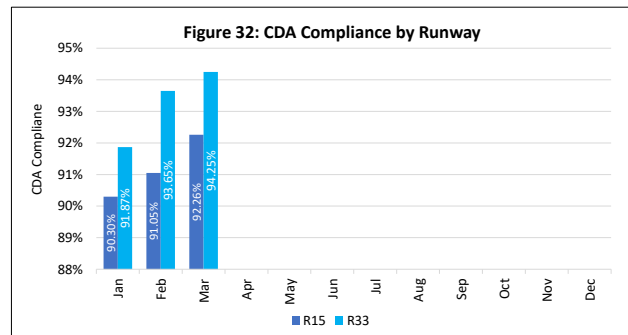
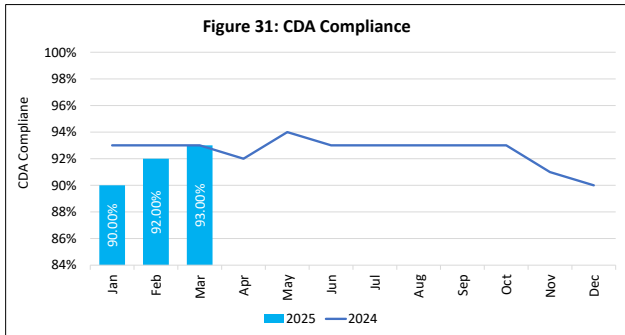
### Continuous Descent Approaches (CDA)



Aircraft operate a Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) staying higher for longer, by descending at a continuous rate. CDAs require less engine thrust, reducing air pollutant and noise emissions. CDA compliance in Q1 2025 saw an increase month on month **Figure 31 (Left)**. The Sustainability Team continues engage with airlines through the Operation Pathfinder Forum to drive improvement in both arrivals and departure performance.

**Figure 32 (bottom-centre)** provides a breakdown of CDA performance by Runway for 2025. Runway 33 arrivals had a higher degree of compliance than that of Runway 15 arrivals in January, February and March 2025

**Figure 33 (bottom-right)** shows CDA performance by quarter dating back to the fourth quarter of 2019. There was an increase in compliance over the 1st Quarter of 2025 compared with 4th Quarter of 2024.



### Helicopter Movements

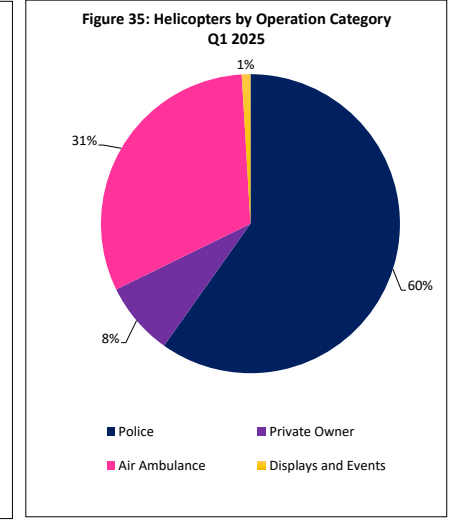
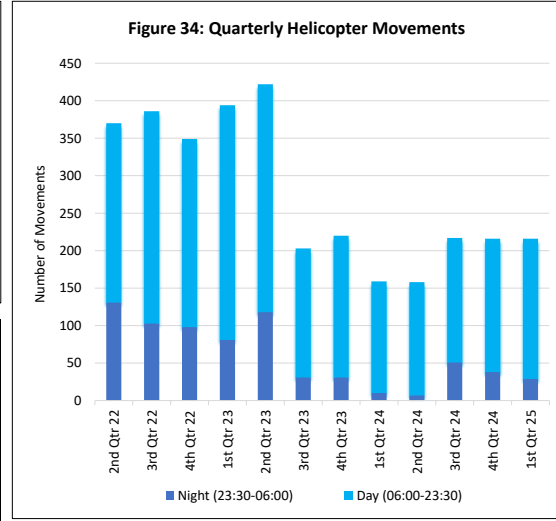
Although helicopters have no set routes that they are required to follow, in recognition of the community sensitivity around helicopter noise BAL has implemented a noise abatement policy for helicopter operations. This policy states that 'Helicopters should, except in the case of an emergency, avoid overflying the noise sensitive area at less than 500 feet AAL (Above Aerodrome Level). This area extends between 230° and 290° from the Western end of stand 506, to a distance of 0.5 NM' and covers the area of Elmdon and parts of Sheldon. Helicopters are also required to abide by the low flying rules, which require the helicopter to operate at a minimum height of 500 feet for rural areas and 1500 feet for built up areas. Exceptions to low flying rules do apply, including upon landing or take-off, utility network surveys and police helicopter movements.

**Figure 34** shows quarterly helicopter movements since the second quarter of 2022, with a breakdown of the split between those within the night period (23:30-06:00) and those within the daytime (06:00-23:30). The second quarter of 2023 saw the highest number of helicopter operations with 304 in the day and 118 at night.

**Figure 35** shows a breakdown of Quarter 1 2025 helicopter movements by category. Police helicopters accounted for the largest proportion of movements with 60% of all helicopter operations.

The below table shows a summary of total helicopter ATM's by category and calendar year, from 2022 to 2025 YTD. Data shows that from 2020 to 2022 the most notable increase (98%) is in police helicopter operations. The Birmingham National Police Air Service (NPAS) have commented that 'Each flight conducted is due to an operational policing need to support and assist the public to combat crime or assist with saving life in finding vulnerable people. Members of the Police Helicopter Unit are indeed mindful that their operations can have an impact on local communities.' Police helicopter movements

Operation Category	Year						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Air Ambulance	2	2	1	5	22	67	
Military	1	2	12	2	2	0	
Training & Engineering	4	6	8	5	0	2	
Search & Rescue	0	0	6	22	6	0	
Displays and Events	0	1	3	4	4	2	
Pipeline Surveying	11	5	12	24	14	0	
Police	685	774	1158	863	400	128	
Private Charter	2	15	18	28	55	0	
Private Owner	151	259	254	286	209	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>216</b>	



# Night Flying

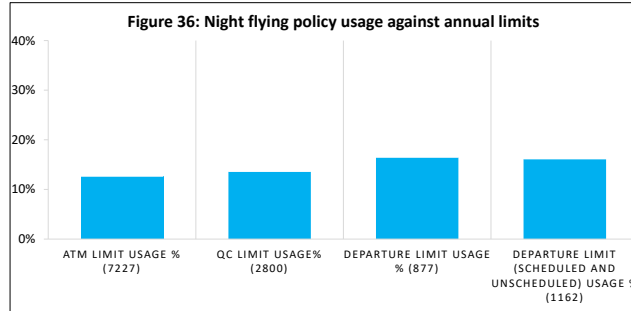
## Night Air Transport Movements

Birmingham Airport is a 24-hour operation and has been for many years. We recognise the sensitivity of night noise and have a Night Flying Policy which is amongst the most stringent of any UK airport. It restricts the type and number of operations that are permitted during the Night Flying Period (23:30 - 06:00).

The current Night Flying Policy year runs from 27th October 2024 to 26th October 2025 (inclusive).

The four key limiting mechanisms through which the Night Flying Policy serves to mitigate aircraft noise at night are an Air Transport Limit, a Quota Count Limit and an 877 Departure Cap, and an absolute departure limit (scheduled and unscheduled) usage of 1162. These are outlined in more detail below. **Figure 36** (centre) shows the Night Flying Year to date usage of these limits.

The table (right) breaks down performance by month for each of the last four night flying years with the corresponding total Air Transport Movement and Quota Count values for that year shown in bold.

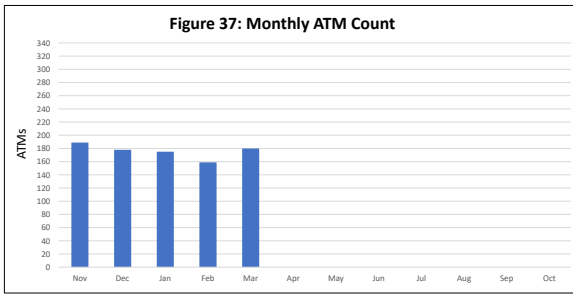


Date Range	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	ATM's	QC	ATM's	QC	ATM's	QC	ATM's	QC
November	115	38.5	103	38.5	156	56.75	189	82.75
December	145	35.125	136	39.125	143	45.125	204	86.3
January	157	31.875	121	36.375	152	58.5	175	73.75
February	160	50	131	38.625	129	45.75	159	65.375
March	206	65	205	63.5	176	24.375	180	71.25
April	306	122	389	150.75	416	193.625		
May	586	226.75	591	221	621	290.75		
June	765	301.875	766	271	812	365.875		
July	831	326.375	843	300.625	898	411.5		
August	771	298	837	333.5	904	396.125		
September	725	229.625	790	330	850	368		
October	595	226.875	534	210.75	562	237.5		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5362</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>5446</b>	<b>2033.75</b>	<b>5819</b>	<b>2493.875</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>379.425</b>
<b>Limit</b>	<b>5505</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>5505</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>5171</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>7227</b>	<b>2800</b>
<b>Exemptions</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-</b>

### ATM Limit

Birmingham Airport operates a night-time Air Transport Movement (ATM) limit equivalent to 7.6% of the total annual ATM figure (day and night). The 2024-2025 Night Flying Year, running from 27th October 2024 to the 26th October 2025 (inclusive), has an indicative ATM limit of 7,227

Figure 37 provides a monthly breakdown for the Night Flying Year to date of the ATM count.



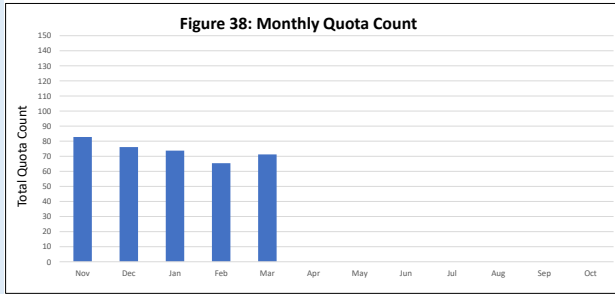
### Quota Count Limit

Quota Counting is a method used by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to limit the noise impact of aircraft at airports across the UK.

The Quota Count (QC) system assigns a points rating to each aircraft based on its noise certification. The total QC for an airport is the sum of the QC ratings for all aircraft arrivals and departures. The QC rating is based on the aircraft's certificated noise level, which is measured in effective perceived noise decibels (EPNdB). The EPNdB bands are grouped for QC purposes, with successive classifications increasing by multiples of two. For example, a QC/1 aircraft has twice the impact of a QC/0.5 aircraft.

Birmingham Airport does not allow any aircraft with a QC greater than 1 to be scheduled to operate between 2330- 0600 (local) hours.

The quota limit during the Night Period is 2,800. Figure 38 provides a monthly breakdown for the Night Flying Year to date of the ATM count.



### Departure Cap

No more than 877 aircraft can be scheduled to depart between 2330 to 0500 (local) from Birmingham Airport. No more than 1162 aircraft can depart between 2330 to 0500 (local) from Birmingham Airport.

Figure 39 shows a monthly breakdown for the Night Flying Year to date of the ATM count.

