

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT (BHX) LOCAL RULE 1: NIGHT QUOTA ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

Version 1.0, September 2025

Adopted by Coordination Committee: Tue 23rd September 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the procedures for allocating and managing the use of Night Quota in accordance with the Night Flying Policy applicable at Birmingham Airport. It is supplementary to the slot allocation rules set out in the UK Slot Regulation.

2. OBJECTIVES

- a. To manage seasonal night flying within the annual limits as defined in the applicable Night Flying Policy document.
- b. To make best use of the Night Quota limits.
- c. To accurately forecast and control annual Night Quota use.
- d. To ensure the method of allocating Night Quota is transparent and fair.
- e. To respect the historic rights of night flights from the previous equivalent season.
- f. To provide for off-schedule operations beyond the air carriers control.
- g. To provide for new air carriers or additional operations where Night Quota permits.

3. SUMMARY OF NIGHT RESTRICTIONS AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

The following restrictions are summarised from the applicable Night Flying Policy document and are provided here for clarity in the context of this Local Rule. The applicable Night Flying Policy document should be consulted for details of annual limits and other operational restrictions approved under the planning conditions:

- a. The Night Period is defined as 2330 to 0600 (local) hours.
- b. No aircraft with a QC greater than 1 to be scheduled to operate between 2330 – 0600 (local) hours.
- c. Annual Night Movement limit during the Night Period.
- d. Annual Departure movement limit during a shortened period within the Night Period between 2330 - 0500 (local).
- e. Annual QC limit – Limit during the Night Period in line with the Night Flying Policy, Solihull Council and confirmed in the Airport's seasonal capacity declaration. (combined arrivals & departures).

Appendix 1 shows the various night restriction periods compared as a timeline against one another.

4. DEFINITIONS

In these procedures the following words shall have the following meanings:

Night Departure Period: 2330 – 0500 (local time) hours. Wheels off Runway.

Night Departure Planning Period: 2315 – 0450 (local time) hours. Off chocks from stand.

Night Departure Pool: An amount of Departure Night Movements reserved for contingency against the Night Departure Period.

Night Movement:	A take-off (wheels off) or touchdown (wheels down) recorded on the runway between 2330 – 0600 Local Time (Night Period).
Night Period:	2330 – 0600 (local time) hours.
Night Planning Period:	The time periods during which off/on-chocks slot times are considered to be a Night Slot requiring Night Quota.
Arrivals:	2330 – 0615 local time (inclusive)
Departures:	2315 – 0550 local time (inclusive)
Night Quota:	The combination of the night movements and QC points required for a flight to be able to operate in the Night Period.
Night Quota Pool:	An amount of Night Quota reserved for contingency within a scheduling season.
Night Slot:	An allocated slot within the Night Planning Period.
QC:	Noise Quota Count, a points rating assigned to the arrival or departure of an aircraft type based on its noise certification.
Slot:	Shall have the same meaning as in the Slot Regulation.
Slot Regulation:	Airports Slot Allocation (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, and its successors.
Slot Return Deadline:	31 January prior to a Summer season and 31 August prior to a Winter season.

5. SEASONAL DECLARATION

- a. Night Quota limits and the Night Period for Birmingham Airport have been defined in planning conditions set by the local planning authority. Planning conditions determine an annual limit, annual departure limit and annual QC limit for night flights. For planning purposes, seasonal Night Quota limits will be declared by Birmingham Airport upon review with ACL. Historic requirements for both Winter and Summer seasons and any adjustments to the number of weeks in each scheduling season will be considered.
- b. Birmingham Airport will be responsible for including as part of the seasonal capacity declaration for both the Winter and Summer scheduling seasons, the following scheduling limits:
 - i. Seasonal Night Slot Limit for the Night Planning Period
 - ii. Seasonal Night Slot Limit for the Night Quota Pool
 - iii. Seasonal QC Limit for the Night Planning Period
 - iv. Seasonal QC Limit for the Night Quota Pool
 - v. Seasonal Night Slot Limit for the Night Departure Planning Period
 - vi. Seasonal Night Slot Limit for the Night Departure Pool
 - vii. Any QC restrictions that are applicable during the Night Period

6. ALLOCATION OF NIGHT SLOTS & NIGHT QUOTA

- a. Night Slots are allocated by the Coordinator in accordance with the applicable Slot Regulation and Night Flying Policy and this Local Rule.
- b. Night slots will be allocated subject to available Night Quota. Air Carriers can assume that the confirmation of a night slot includes the allocation of the associated Night Quota to make that Night Slot feasible.

- c. Where a series of Night Slots can be considered for historic entitlement under the applicable Slot Regulation, an air carrier shall be entitled to retain the associated Night Quota for that historic series in the next equivalent season's Slot Historic Listings (SHL).
- d. If 80% usage of a series of Night Slots cannot be demonstrated and the series of slots is placed back into the slot pool for the next equivalent season, then the associated Night Quota for that series of Night Slots is also placed back into the pool at the same time.
- e. Any changes/transfers/exchanges of Night Slots will be confirmed by the Coordinator, subject to availability against all declared scheduling constraints. Where such a transaction requires a net increase in Night Quota, this will be confirmed by the Coordinator, subject to Night Quota availability.

7. NIGHT QUOTA POOL & NIGHT DEPARTURE POOL

- a. A Night Quota Pool shall be made available for unplanned Night Movements and ad-hoc Night Slots that cannot be accommodated within the declared seasonal limits for the Night Planning Period.
- b. A Night Departure Pool shall be made available for off-schedule departure flights which are scheduled outside of the Night Departure period but operate within the Night Departure period.
- c. The following clauses apply equally to both the Night Quota Pool and Night Departure Pool:
- d. Any unused Night Quota from the previous scheduling season will be consolidated into the Night Quota Pool/Night Departure Pool of the next season upon conclusion of the scheduling season. This is subject to the definitions of the annual Night Quota Limits in the Night Flying Policy.
- e. Air carriers are expected to make all reasonable efforts to prevent flights scheduled outside of the Night Period from operating within the Night Quota Period/Night Departure Period.
- f. The Night Flying Policy describes circumstances which permit the exemption of unplanned night movements from counting against the Night Quota Pool (Section 6 "Exempt Movements"). It is the responsibility of all air carriers at Birmingham Airport to familiarise themselves with these exemptions and present any cases of unplanned night movements they believe qualify at the earliest opportunity. Birmingham Airport are responsible for making any final decisions on Night Quota exemptions.
- g. The Coordinator and Birmingham Airport shall monitor the use of the Night Quota Pool during the season. This will include the monitoring of coordinated Night Slots and unplanned Night Movements.
- h. Any excessive unplanned use from the Night Quota Pool will in the first instance be addressed under regular slot monitoring activity undertaken by the Coordinator and may require corrective action from the airline as discussed with the Coordinator and Birmingham Airport.
- i. Subject to the in-season projections of Night Quota usage, the Coordinator may be permitted to allocate planned Night Slots that cannot be allocated within the declared seasonal Night Quota limits using Night Quota from the Night Quota Pool. All such movements will count against the Night Quota Pool and are allocated on a non-historic basis only.

8. EXHAUSTION OF NIGHT QUOTA

- a. If exhaustion of Night Quota is predicted, then appropriate corrective actions shall be taken by Birmingham Airport and ACL. Birmingham Airport Limited reserve the right to issue any

restrictions they deem necessary for managing night quota. The actions include but are not limited to:

- i. The allocation of new Night Slots (including ad hoc slots) may be suspended;
 - ii. Air carriers that have used a significant amount of Night Quota from the Night Quota Pool or Night Departure Pool may be prohibited from further use of these pools;
 - iii. Carriers who have excessive unplanned use of the Night Quota Pool or Night Departure Pool may be required to reschedule any remaining planned flights in the Night Period outside of Night Period.
- b. Issues regarding the allocation and use of Night Quota and the application of these procedures may be discussed at meetings of the Birmingham Airport Coordination Committee.

9. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

These procedures shall be reviewed every 12 months prior to the start of each annual period defined in the Night Flying Policy.

Appendix 1: Timeline diagram of the various night restriction periods applicable at BHX Airport

			Arr & Dep movements on runway	Coordinated Arrival Slots	Coordinated Departure Slots	Dep movements on runway	Coordinated Departure Slots
BHX Local Time	Winter UTC	Summer UTC	Night Period	Night Planning Period: ARRIVALS	Night Planning Period: DEPARTURES	Night Departure Period	Night Departure Planning Period
23:00	23:00	22:00					
23:05	23:05	22:05					
23:10	23:10	22:10					
23:15	23:15	22:15					
23:20	23:20	22:20					
23:25	23:25	22:25					
23:30	23:30	22:30					
23:35	23:35	22:35					
23:40	23:40	22:40					
23:45	23:45	22:45					
23:50	23:50	22:50					
23:55	23:55	22:55					
00:00	00:00	23:00					
00:05	00:05	23:05					
00:10	00:10	23:10					
00:15	00:15	23:15					
00:20	00:20	23:20					
00:25	00:25	23:25					
00:30	00:30	23:30					
00:35 - 04:25	00:35 - 04:25	23:35 - 03:25					
04:30	04:30	03:30					
04:35	04:35	03:35					
04:40	04:40	03:40					
04:45	04:45	03:45					
04:50	04:50	03:50					
04:55	04:55	03:55					
05:00	05:00	04:00					
05:05	05:05	04:05					
05:10	05:10	04:10					
05:15	05:15	04:15					
05:20	05:20	04:20					
05:25	05:25	04:25					
05:30	05:30	04:30					
05:35	05:35	04:35					
05:40	05:40	04:40					
05:45	05:45	04:45					
05:50	05:50	04:50					
05:55	05:55	04:55					
06:00	06:00	05:00					
06:05	06:05	05:05					
06:10	06:10	05:10					
06:15	06:15	05:15					
06:20	06:20	05:20					
06:25	06:25	05:25					
06:30	06:30	05:30					