LOCAL RULE 2

HEATHROW PROCEDURES FOR AD HOC OPERATIONS

- 1. The procedures for administering ad hoc operations at Heathrow Airport are set out in Appendix 1 of this Local Rule.
- The Heathrow Ad Hoc Working Group is responsible for the ongoing development of these procedures. The Working Group shall consist of representatives of Airport Coordination Ltd (ACL), Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL), National Air Traffic Services (NATS), airline operators, General/Business Aviation operators and handling agents.
- 3. The Heathrow Ad Hoc Working Group may agree amendments to the Appendix 1 Procedures from time to time to take immediate effect. Any such amendments will be presented to the Heathrow Coordination Committee (HCC) for endorsement at its next full meeting.



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APPENDIX 1: HEATHROW PROCEDURES FOR AD HOC OPERATIONS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the procedures for controlling ad hoc operations at Heathrow Airport.
- 1.2 The objective is to make full use of available capacity for the benefit of all types of traffic in accordance with prevailing rules and regulations. It is designed to ensure that ad hoc operations are administered in a neutral, non-discriminatory and transparent way. It also seeks to prevent ad hoc operations from increasing congestion and impacting upon the efficient operation of airport.
- 1.3 ACL, as the duly appointed Coordinator, is responsible for the approval of all ad hoc operations at Heathrow Airport. Outside normal office hours, ACL delegates its responsibilities to the Stand Allocation Unit (SAU), a department of Heathrow Airport, see Annex 1: Contact Details.

2. Ad Hoc Availability

- 2.1 The runway capacity available for ad hoc operations consists of Pool Slots and Tactical Availability (see paragraph 12 Definitions).
- 2.2 Pool Slots are allocated according to **Annex 2: Traffic Type Priorities**. Where requests have equal priority, the Request Date is used as a secondary criterion.
- 2.3 Tactical Availability is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis as per the Request Date, regardless of the Traffic Type Priorities.
- 2.4 The allocation of Pool Slots for ad hoc operations commences in mid-January (summer season) and mid-August (winter season). Operators should not request ad hoc slots prior to these dates. Early applications will be assigned the same request date for Waitlist purposes.
- 2.5 Tactical Availability, if available, will be declared by Heathrow's Airside Director or a delegated representative. Additional on-the-day Tactical Availability may also be declared by Heathrow Airport if available.
- 2.6 Tactical Availability is for use by ad hoc operations on a non-historic basis only. It is not permissible to attempt to operate a series of planned commercial services using Tactical Availability.
- 2.7 Slot availability is published and dynamically updated on the ACL's Online Coordination website www.online-coordination.com. All operators are encouraged to consult the Slot Availability prior to making an application and target requests at times where slots are available whenever possible.
- 2.8 Slots for ad hoc operations may be suspended by the Heathrow's Airside Director or delegated representative. The airport may also declare a reduced capacity for the following season to take effect at the slot handback deadline (31 January for summer and 31 August for winter) in the capacity declaration letter. (The capacity declaration can be downloaded from www.acl-uk.org.)



- 2.9 The following conditions may result in the suspension of the allocation of ad hoc slots: adverse operating conditions (e.g. severe weather), special events (e.g. major sporting event or state occasion) or temporary loss of airport infrastructure (e.g. a runway closure) that is likely to lead to significant and prolonged disruption or delay. Heathrow's Airside Director or delegated representative in cooperation with NATS will declare to ACL if such conditions exist. The allocation of ad hoc availability may be suspended and any allocated ad hoc slots may be withdrawn upon reasonable notice to the operator. In such circumstances the exemption rules described in section 3 and Annex 3: Exempt Flight Types of this Local Rule will still apply.
- 2.10 If the disruption described in 2.9 is expected to continue for a prolonged period Heathrow Airport may invoke procedures described in Local Rule 4 or implement Demand vs. Capacity Procedures. Annex 3 will be suspended during this period.

3. Exempt Flight Types

- 3.1 A limited set of flights types are Exempt Flights and will be permitted to operate when slots are not available. Details of Exempt Flight types are provided in **Annex 3: Exempt Flight Types**.
- 3.2 With the exception of Emergency Operations and Operational Delays, operators must notify ACL in advance of any Exempt Flights and provide the information necessary to verify the their status. Emergency Operations must be notified to ACL as soon as possible for monitoring purposes.
- 3.3 ACL will allocate an available slot for Exempt Flights where possible. Operators should accept an available slot time when they have the flexibility to do so.
- 3.4 When an Exempt Flight is planned at a time when no slots are available, ACL may block an adjacent available slot to minimise any adverse impact on airport operations.

4. Requests for Ad Hoc Operations

- 4.1 All requests for ad hoc operations must be submitted **in writing**. Submissions to ACL should be made as SSIM-format e-mail messages. Subscribers to ACL's Online Coordination System (OCS) are encouraged to make requests via this website. When the flight data has been input via OCS but there are no slots available press "ask us" as this will generate a record in the database that can be actioned by SAU or ACL.
- 4.2 Urgent requests outside ACL office hours should be made by e-mail to SAU giving the required information in Annex 4: Request Data Requirements. A fax may be sent instead of an e-mail if necessary in which case the Out of Hours Slot Request Form attached to this Local Rule should be used, Heathrow Out of Hours Slot Request. Subscribers to ACL's OCS are encouraged to make requests via this website using the "ask us" function when there are no slots available. All Out of Hours requests must be followed up with a telephone call to SAU. All requests in writing will get a reply from SAU in writing.
- 4.3 Telephone requests will be accepted provided they are followed up in writing for audit purposes. Telephone requests should be limited to urgent situations e.g. for operations on that day.



- 4.4 Requests should be made as soon in advance of the day of operation as possible, and out-of-hours requests should be kept to a minimum. Speculative requests without a firm intention to operate is considered an abuse of the system (see paragraph 11 Monitoring).
- 4.5 Requests may be made by the aircraft operator or their authorised handling agent. ACL may limit those operators authorised to make requests directly. Air Taxi and General/Business Aviation operators that do not use Heathrow regularly should make requests via their handling agent.
- 4.6 With the exception of Heathrow-based airlines, all requests should be in turnaround format. ACL will not normally allocate an arrival slot without a corresponding departure slot due to the shortage of apron space at Heathrow.
- 4.7 Turnaround format requests are <u>mandatory</u> for all Air Taxi and General/Business Aviation flights.
- 4.8 Requests should also indicate any timing flexibility for acceptable offers. On SSIM-format messages, this should be included as Supplementary Information (SI) text.
- 4.9 For details of request data requirements, please see Annex 4: Request Data Requirements and Annex 5: Use of Service Type Codes.

5. Responses to Requests

- 5.1 ACL will reply to requests as soon as possible. ACL endeavours to respond to most requests within 24 hours and all within **3 business days**. Workload is prioritised for urgent requests i.e. operations for today or tomorrow.
- 5.2 Responses will be in writing by e-mail. Offers made by telephone will be followed up in writing. Out of hours a fax or e-mail may be used for slot requests to SAU.
- 5.3 Operators must Accept or Decline offers made as soon as possible, and at the latest within 3 business days or the offer will be withdrawn. Operators may accept an offer and remain on the Waitlist for an improved time i.e. Pend.

6. Waitlist

- 6.1 A Waitlist is maintained of all outstanding ad hoc requests, including those seeking improvements to an allocated slot. The Waitlist information includes the assigned Traffic Type Priority (Annex 2) and Request Date.
- 6.2 The Waitlist is regularly reviewed and new/revised offers are made as Pool Slots or Tactical Availability become available e.g. through cancellations or on the declaration of Tactical Availability.
- 6.3 All operators must inform ACL of any changes to Waitlist requirements and of requests that should be removed from the Waitlist either due to acceptance of an offer or cancellation of the request.
- 6.4 Handling agents may **not** re-assign slots between customer operators. The slots offered must be deleted and a new request made.



7. Return of Pool Slots and Tactical Availability

- 7.1 All operators must return any unwanted Pool Slots and Tactical Availability as soon as possible for re-allocation to those on the Waitlist. Often slots can be recycled even at short notice.
- 7.2 ACL regularly monitors slot use to ensure that slots are returned when not required. Any regular failures to do so are reported to the Heathrow Slot Performance Committee to take appropriate action (see paragraph 11 Monitoring).

8. Helicopters

- 8.1 All helicopter movements require prior approval in accordance with these procedures.
- 8.2 During daylight hours (which vary by time of year), helicopters do not require a runway slot for a maximum of 2 helicopter movements per 60-minute period with a minimum of 10-minutes separation between each movement. Otherwise, and at other times, a runway Pool Slot or Tactical Availability is required.
- 8.3 This exemption from runway slots is available for ad hoc operations only. Regularly planned helicopter services require the allocation of Pool Slots.

9. GA Parking Constraints

- 9.1 Due to the shortage of apron space at Heathrow the airport declares available GA parking in the capacity declaration for each season. Exempt Flight Types are counted in determining whether the parking limit is reached.
- 9.2 If the departure date/time is not known precisely, a reasonable estimate must be requested. It is not permitted to overstay the allocated departure date/time without prior approval.
- 9.3 Any Requests above the GA declared capacity should be referred to the Senior Operations Controller

10. Noise Exempt Aircraft

10.1 Ad hoc operations by noise exempt aircraft types during the Night Quota Period (2330 – 0600 local time) require prior approval in accordance with these procedures. If the flight is unable to achieve its allocated time, the operator must notify SAU immediately for reasons of safety and security and to allow the information to be distributed to all affected parties.

11. Monitoring

- 11.1 ACL regularly monitors the use of Pool Slots and Tactical Availability. All operators are expected to operate as closely as possible to the allocated times to minimise congestion and delays. Exempt Flights are also monitored. Note: on / off block times are allocated, not runway times.
- 11.2 The following are examples of potential abuses:
 - Operating without prior approval, except Emergency Operations;
 - Regularly or intentionally failing to adhere to an allocated slot for reasons that are not beyond an operator's control;



Note: Obtaining a CFMU slot time or pushback clearance from ATC does not override the airport slot time allocated;

- Failure to return unwanted slots where it is practical to do so;
- The provision of false or misleading information in a slot request for the purposes of gaining higher priority or Exempt Flight status;
- Regularly making speculative requests for ad hoc operations without a firm intention to operate;
- Attempts to re-assign slots between operators and bypass the Waitlist.
- 11.3 Instances of potential abuse will be investigated by ACL under the Misuse of Slots Enforcement Code, and the operator may be liable for sanctions under the enforcement code and/or the Heathrow Conditions of use. (Annex 6 contains a link to the Conditions of Use on the Heathrow Airport web site).
- 11.4 Alternatively, ACL may take action by giving the operator lower priority when considering future requests for ad hoc operations if the operator is guilty of regular and/or intentional abuse.

12. Definitions

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

- a) ACL: Airport Coordination Limited, the Coordinator.
- **b)** Ad Hoc Operation: any operation that is not part of a series of slots.
- c) Air Taxi: non-scheduled air transport operation for hire or reward and in the case of a passenger air transport operation where seating capacity of aircraft used exceeds 10.
- **d) General/Business Aviation:** any air traffic not falling into one of following categories: scheduled air service; Air Taxi service; Official Flight; positioning flight; training flight.
- e) HAL: Heathrow Airport Limited, the airport operator.
- f) NATS: National Air Traffic Services, the provider of air traffic services.
- g) Official Flights: any air traffic engaged on the Queen's Flight or on flights operated primarily for purposes of the transport of Government Ministers or visiting Heads of State or dignitaries from abroad.
- **h) Pool Slot:** slot within seasonal runway scheduling limits, declared by airport in mid-October for a summer season and mid-May for a winter season.
- i) SAU: Stand Allocation Unit, a department of Heathrow Airport and the provider of slot allocation services outside ACL's office hours.
- **j)** Series of slots: at least 4 slots distributed regularly in a scheduling season at same time on same day of the week.
- **k) Slot:** scheduled time of arrival or departure available or allocated to an aircraft movement on a specific date at a fully coordinated airport.
- **I) SSIM:** Schedule Standards Information Manual, IATA document that defines schedule coordination request message formats (SSIM Chapter 6).
- **m)** Tactical Availability: additional runway capacity declared by Heathrow's Airside Director or delegated representative on a tactical basis for specific date and time, and available for ad hoc operations.



ANNEX 1: CONTACT DETAILS

Airport Coordination Limited

Viewpoint 240 London Road Staines TW18 4JT United Kingdom

Office Hours: Monday-Friday (excl. Bank Holidays)

0900 - 1700 local time

Note: From 1645 - 1700 ACL is in the process of handing over to SAU.

Requests should be avoided at this time.

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8564 0613

Email: LONACXH@acl-uk.org

Website: www.online-coordination.com (for Slot Availability)

Heathrow Stand Allocation Unit (SAU)

Contact for requests outside ACL office hours to operate on the same or next day of the out-of-hours period. Note for weekends this includes flights on a Monday.

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8745 6033

Fax: +44 (0) 20 8745 7229

Email: OCS@heathrow.com

Heathrow Senior Operations Controller (SOC):

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8745 0077

Heathrow Airfield Flow Managers (AFMs)

Telephone:+44 (0) 20 8757 3501

Duty Mobile: +44 (0) 7525 825585

E-mail: aircraft_flow_managers@heathrow.com



ANNEX 2: TRAFFIC TYPE PRIORITIES

The priorities used for the allocation of Pool Slots to ad hoc operations are:

Priority	Description	Service Types
1	VIP flights other than Official Flights ¹	I
2	Commercial passenger flights	J, C, Q, G, E
3	Commercial all-cargo flights	F, H, M, A
4	Positioning flights to operate a planned commercial service or to undergo essential maintenance	Р
5	Ambulance flights ²	U
6	Air Taxi or General/Business Aviation flights ³	N, D, W
7	Other non-commercial flights e.g. air tests ⁴ , positioning flights, training flights, technical stops	P, T, K, X

Notes:

- 1 Includes support aircraft for Official Flights; eligibility to be determined in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- 2 Urgent ambulance flights may be exempt where no feasible slots are available and use of alternative airfields is not possible. Use N for positioning flights without the medical crew.
- 3 Positioning Air Taxis use D (from 2016). Air Taxis with passengers use N (from 2016).
- 4 Air tests that must occur in daylight hours for technical reasons may be exempt where no feasible slots are available. Due to the unpredictability of the time required to conduct the test, operators will not be penalised for off-slot arrivals, subject to monitoring.



ANNEX 3: EXEMPT FLIGHT TYPES

1. Emergency Operations Diversions/Quick Returns, Police Emergencies, Search and Rescue Operations.

Note

- All Emergency Operations must be notified to ACL as soon as possible for monitoring purposes.
- Departures to continue the planned service following a Diversion or Quick Return on the same day do not require the prior approval of ACL; departures delayed to the following day or positioning flights (i.e. after passengers/freight are off-loaded) require prior approval.
- **2. Medical Emergencies** Donor Flights, Flights where safety of life is involved, Humanitarian Flights

Note - Ambulance flights are not Exempt Flight Types

Ambulance flights may be exempt where the need to move patient by air transport is urgent, and:

- The use of an alternative airfield (eg, Northolt) is not possible; and/or
- The patient is connecting to/from a commercial Heathrow service.

A positioning leg associated with an exempt ambulance flight may also be exempt where the medical crew is aboard and are required for other emergency services.

The operator/handling agent is responsible for obtaining as information on the patient's condition, use of alternative airfields, and any connecting commercial flights.

The patient's condition should be indicated using the NACA international scoring system to give an overall description of the patient's condition. This is the same system used by CFMU for ATFM slot exemption. The NACA categories are:

NACA I - minor health disturbance;
NACA II - out-patient check-up needed;
NACA III - hospital treatment needed;
NACA IV - possible health threatening;
NACA V - acute critical condition;

NACA VI - resuscitation;

NACA VII - death.

NACA categories V or VI qualify for slot exemption. NACA category IV qualifies where the patient is connecting to/from a commercial Heathrow service.

The NACA category should be included as SI text in the slot request. For organ donor transports, the word DONOR should be included as SI text.

3. Official Flights

The Queen's Flight and flights carrying Government Ministers or visiting Heads of State or dignitaries from abroad.

4. Technical Flights

Radar and ILS calibration flights, Air Tests limited to daylight hours for technical reasons and no feasible slots are available.



5. Recovery Flights

Positioning to replace an unserviceable aircraft or other unforeseeable schedule disruption (e.g. severe weather) and resume a planned commercial service.

Note the exemption applies only to:

- An inbound positioning flight to recover a planned Heathrow departure service;
- An outbound positioning flight of an away-based airline's aircraft following unplanned essential maintenance at Heathrow, where aircraft is urgently required to resume planned commercial operations;
- An outbound positioning flight to recover a Heathrow-based airline's own service.(e.g. a base operator requires a aircraft to position to LGW to recover a flight at LGW);
- The return of a Heathrow-based recovery aircraft to resume planned commercial operations.

It does not apply to circumstances such as:

- Outbound positioning to recover another airline's service (e.g. sub-charter);
- Positioning to replace an aircraft undergoing planned maintenance, including instances of a maintenance overrun;
- Any planned positioning of an aircraft to operate a commercial service.

6. Operational Delays

The unplanned delay of a scheduled service (with commercial load) within 24 hours of the original scheduled time. The operator is responsible for ensuring that terminal and ground handling facilities are available at the revised time.

7. Passenger Repatriation Flights

Passenger repatriation flights to recover passengers will be accepted if directed and confirmed by the Government.

8. Heathrow – Base Operators Essential Maintenance and Essential Positioning Flights

In periods of reduced capacity, when sections 2.8 and 2.9 apply, base operators may be permitted to operate essential maintenance and essential positioning flights in excess of the reduced capacity, but within declared seasonal scheduling limits before any slot handback deadline capacity reduction is applied subject to prior authorisation from ACL.

9. Heathrow Schedule Passenger Flight Delayed More Than 24 Hours

In periods of reduced capacity, when sections 2.8 and 2.9 apply, Heathrow scheduled airlines' flights with a delay in excess of 24 hours may be permitted to operate a passenger service to recover a Heathrow scheduled flight in excess of the reduced capacity, but within declared seasonal runway schedule limits before any slot handback deadline capacity reduction is applied subject to prior authorisation from ACL.

10. Compassionate Flights

In periods of reduced capacity, when sections 2.8 and 2.9 apply, compassionate flights (Comp A only) may be allowed to operate above the reduced capacity but within declared seasonal schedule limits before any slot handback deadline capacity reduction is applied subject to prior authorisation from ACL.

The compassionate categories are:

- Comp A Critically ill, life threatening condition;
- Comp B Death or non-critical illness;
- Comp C Discounted Ticket on Commercial Airlines.



11. Operational Retimes for Scheduled Flights In periods of reduced capacity when section 2.8 is applied at the slot handback deadline, airline operations may require a series flight to be re-timed (re-scheduled) for an ad-hoc period due to adverse weather conditions, civil unrest airport closures or strikes. Airlines may be permitted to operate above the reduced capacity but within the declared seasonal capacity before any slot return deadline capacity reduction is applied subject to prior authorisation from ACL. When section 2.8 is applied and ad-hoc capacity is withdrawn by the airport due to disruption caused by weather or airport facilities, retimes will not be allowed unless they are deemed to be a benefit to the airport operational environment. Any retimes must fit within the declared capacity.

12. General Operational Retimes

In periods of reduced capacity when section 2.8 is applied at the slot handback deadline, airline operations may require an ad hoc retime to avoid night time operations or impacting the following day operations. Airlines may be permitted to operate above the reduced capacity but within the declared seasonal capacity before any slot return deadline capacity reduction is applied subject to prior approval from ACL.

13. Commercial Retimes

In periods of reduced capacity when section 2.8 is applied at the slot handback deadline airline scheduling may request a retime for commercial reasons on a one for one basis. The airline would be allowed to operate within the declared capacity and above the reduced capacity. E.g. an airline decides to operate a series or single charter flight(s) instead of the schedule service and requests retimes on these slots to facilitate the charter. Another example would be an airline requests an ad-hoc retime on a one for one basis to improve the commercial timing of a schedule flight.



ANNEX 4: REQUEST DATA REQUIREMENTS

14. Requests for ad hoc operations must include the following data:

Basic Information:

- Arrival/Departure Flight Number
- Date of operation (arrival if an overnight stay)
- Number of seats (use 0 if no passengers on board)
- Aircraft type
- Origin/Last station
- Arrival/Departure time requested
- Turnaround days (if the departure is 1 or more days after arrival)
- Next station/Destination
- Arrival/Departure Service Type.

Supplementary Information:

- Aircraft Registration mandatory for non-airline requests
- Timing flexibility.

Special Supplementary Information:

Air Ambulance (if seeking an exemption)

Note: Out of Hours use the Air Ambulance Exemption Request form attached.

- Condition of the patient NACA scale I to VII
- Patient connecting with a Heathrow service Flight Number
- Reason use of an alternative airfield is not possible.

Recovery Flight

- Service requiring recovery
- Reason normal aircraft is unserviceable.

VIP/Official Flight

• Dignitary aboard.

Example Ad Hoc Request – SSIM format message:

SCR

/ATTN

W02

20FEB

LHR

NMVI600 MVI601 01MAR 014GS4 LTN2000 07001NCL DN

SI //REG N66SG//

SI DEP BEFORE 0730 IF POSS

GI BRGDS



ANNEX 5: USE OF SERVICE TYPE CODES

Commercial Passenger Service

- J Scheduled passenger
- **G** Additional passenger
- **Q** Scheduled passenger/cargo combi
- **C** Charter passenger

Commercial All-Cargo Service

- **F** Scheduled cargo
- M Mail only
- **H** Charter cargo
- A Additional freight/mail

Air Taxi and General/Business Aviation

- D General/Business Aviation/ Positioning Air Taxi
- N Air Taxi with passengers/Otherwise for a position leg use D
- I VIP/Official Flight
- **E** Government charter
- **U** Air Ambulance (use N for positioning leg unless Medical Crew aboard)
- W Military
- **P** Empty positioning
- T Air Test
- **K** Training
- **X** Technical stop.



ANNEX 6: HEATHROW CONDITIONS OF USE

 $\underline{http://www.heathrowairport.com/about-us/doing-business-with-us/airline-conditions-of-use}$



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URGENT – HEATHROW OUT OF HOURS AIR AMBULANCE EXEMPTION REQUEST

FROM:			FAX TEI		+44 (0) 20 8745 7229 +44 (0) 20 8745 6033 OCS@Heathrow.com	UNII
TEL NO:				PY TO: Mail L:	AIRPORT COORDINA LHRSTAFF@acl-uk.or +44 (0) 20 8564 0613	_
ALL TIMES OTC						
	Arrival	Departure	DETAILS		SAU USE ONL	Y
Flight Number			Deticution condition.	Aoi	sioned by CALL	
A/C Registration			Patient's condition: NACA scale I to VII or DONOR	AC	tioned by SAU	
				Na	me:	
Date				Dat	to:	
Time Requested				Dai	.c.	
Flexibility Range	-	-	Connecting to/from LHR service:	Re	plied to Originator:	Yes/No
Time Offered			Flight No:	Co	pied to ACL:	Yes/No
			Reason alternative airfield not possible		p. 0	100/110
Aircraft Type					tered in USIS:	Yes/No
Origin / Dest						
_						
Service Type	lace Madical Cva	uu ahaand				
Use N for positioning leg un	iess Medicai Gre	w aboard	Other Information:			
Patient Aboard	ARR	/ DEP				
Previous Slot						
		1				

Heathrow
Making every journey better

URGENT – HEATHROW OUT OF HOURS SLOT REQUEST

FROM:	TO/FROM:	STAND ALLOCATION UNIT
	FAX:	+44 (0) 20 8745 7229
FAX NO:	TEL:	+44 (0) 20 8745 6033
	E-mail:	OCS@Heathrow.com
	COPY TO:	AIRPORT COORDINATION LTD
	E-mail:	LHRSTAFF@acl-uk.org
	TEL:	+44 (0) 20 8564 0613

ALL TIMES UTC

	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	REMARKS	SAU USE ONLY		
Flight Number				Actioned by SAU		
A/C Registration						
Date				Name:		
Time Requested				Date:		
Flexibility Range	-	-		Replied to Originator: Yes/No		
Time Offered				Copied to ACL: Yes	/No	
Aircraft Type				Entered in USIS: Yes	/No	
No of Seats		Enter 0 if no pax				
Origin / Dest						
Service Type						
Previous Slot						

