



Heathrow and its Operations

Heathrow is owned and operated by Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited (generally referred to as Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) or London Heathrow (LHR)) and is in turn owned by FGP Topco Limited, a consortium owned and led by the infrastructure specialist Ferrovial S.A. (25.00%), Qatar Holding LLC (20.00%), Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (13.29%), the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (11.88%), Alinda Capital Partners (11.18%), China Investment Corporation (10.00%) and Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) (8.65%). You can find out more about the airport by visiting the Heathrow Airport website. <http://www.heathrowairport.com>

The airport has two main east-west runways. At any one time one is being used for departures and the other for arrivals. Operations are reversed at around 3pm each day. The pattern is also changed weekly so that the runway used for departures in the mornings one week is used for arrivals in the following week.

This “Alternation” provides considerable relief from noise for residents who live under the approach flight paths.

The system currently works well when the wind is from the west. Westerly operations mean that landing aircraft approach Heathrow from the east passing over central London. Departing aircraft go out over Windsor. When the wind is from the east, landing aircraft approach from over Windsor. Departing aircraft always use the southern runway and depart to the east.

The northern runway cannot at present be used for departures to the east (save for exceptional circumstances). This is because of the long-standing 'Cranford Agreement' which seeks to protect houses close to the end of this runway.

The Government announced in 2009 that it was ending the Cranford Agreement in order to be fair to all areas and enable full “Alternation” to operate. However new taxiways are required before the northern runway can be used for easterly take offs. HAL's planning application No 41573/app/2013/1288 for these new taxiways was refused by the London Borough of Hillingdon in 2014 on grounds of adverse noise impact and inadequate noise mitigation proposals. An appeal against the refusal has been lodged under Planning Inspectorate Ref app/r5510/a/14/2225774. The PINS phone contact is 0303 444 5531.

The Heathrow Consultative Committee

Heathrow is a 'designated airport'. This means that the Government effectively controls how the airport may operate in terms of numbers of flights, when it can open and how many flights are permitted. All designated airports have by law to establish a local consultative committee.

Local authorities adjoining the airport are represented on the Heathrow Consultative Committee (HACC). It also includes airport representatives and others from the travel industry and passenger groups. LAANC is also represented on the HACC. If you would like to learn more about what the committee does visit their website at: <http://www.lhr-acc.org/>