

Gatwick Airport Night Flights

There are restrictions on the level of night time noise that is allowed and the number of planes that can fly at night. On average, Gatwick has 45-50 flights a night in the summer, and 18-20 a night in the winter. The night time rules apply from 23:00 until 06:00. There is also a 'shoulder period' at either end of the night, with slightly less strict rules – that is 23:00-23:30 and 06:00-07:00.

From 23.30-06:00, the rules allow for a limited number of flights and a limited amount of noise over the whole summer or winter season. The number of flights is based on a points or 'quota' system relating to each plane's noise levels.

On top of the quota system, there is also an absolute limit on the number of flights permitted at the airport. Under the quota system, the airport has a total number of 'quota points', which are then used up by night time flights. Different types of planes use up different numbers of points, depending on how noisy they are.

The noisiest aircraft use 16 points of the quota, and they're called QC16s (QC = Quota Count). The next noisiest have eight points – QC8s. As planes get quieter, their points get smaller until the quietest planes have just half a point or are exempt altogether.

Movement limits, Gatwick:

Winter 2014/15	Summer 2015	Winter 2015/16	Summer 2016	Winter 2016/17	Summer 2017
3,250	11,200	3,250	11,200	3,250	11,200

Noise quota limits, Gatwick:

Winter 2014/15	Summer 2015	Winter 2015/16	Summer 2016	Winter 2016/17	Summer 2017
2,000	6,200	2,000	6,200	2,000	6,200

Ban on noisiest aircraft

There is an operational ban of QC/8 and QC/16 aircraft for the entire night period (23.00 -07.00). .