

Our neighbours will have no doubt noticed the “unprecedented” reduction in air traffic. At the time of writing this, we have very little passenger traffic. Currently, KLM are operating 3 times a weekly service to Amsterdam, Ryanair 4 times a week to Dublin and Pakistan International Airways 3 times a week to Islamabad. These are classified as repatriation flights and are being handled in line with Government guidelines.

So, with the airspace around the Airport being so quiet, the Airport has decided to support a number of ad-hoc movements, including that by the Royal Air Force (RAF). Local residents may have noticed the C-17 Globemaster from RAF Brize Norton undertaking visual training circuits, and also a number of Hawk (fast jet operations), also doing training operations. During this pandemic essential training for RAF crews needs to continue for us to be able to fulfil UK defence needs. With the reduction in civil traffic major UK airports are now easier for the RAF to use and provide useful training in unfamiliar airspace. This is what has been seen at Birmingham. The training is also very useful for our own Air Traffic Control as it supports our ability for Air Traffic Controllers to train and maintain their operating licences.

We are also supporting the Nightingale Hospital with any helicopter movements that may be required and some cargo services carrying essential medical and agriculture supplies.



*Image of the C-17 Globemaster arriving at Birmingham Airport for training*

Beyond aircraft operations, the Airport has also been supporting the Coroner to provide land and a hangar for a temporary mortuary. And for our employees who are not working due to the Job Protection Scheme we have been working with the NHS and West Midlands Police to promote and fill any support roles which they require.

On behalf of Birmingham Airport Limited we hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well during these unprecedented times and we will work to keep your community representatives informed of any operational changes.