

# INFORMATION

## RESTRICTED AIR SPACE ORDERS



Private & Commercial Drone use



Private & Commercial light air craft use

## Restricted Air Space Orders

### CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA)

There are a number of circumstances where an application for a Restricted Air Space Order (RAO) can be made to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The CAA is the governing body that regulates the movement within the air space above our heads and homes. Where an application is successful, a number of restrictions can be placed on any such movement within these areas. Across the UK there are a number of RAOs that are in operation every day of our lives and to the majority these have very little impact on our day to day lives. Those who regularly use the air space will no doubt be more aware of the existence of any such orders.



Private & Commercial airports

## Significant Risk of Harm.

### THAMES VALLEY & METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

For a considerable number of years we have seen wide spread domestic extremism and terrorist activity occurring without warning across the world; few if any nations remain unaffected, either having been directly targeted or the impact following such incidents. It is not only governments organisations or companies that have been targeted but our wider communities when going about our daily lives.

Remembering these situations we all look further as to how we can best keep ourselves safe whilst not being forced into changing our life styles because of the small minority.

Some locations and iconic sites across the world have been a magnet for these individuals due in part to the large volume of visitors that attend these locations. Many military sites, airports and other significantly important locations already have RAO's in place.

One method that can seek to protect the community living close to an iconic location that draws the wider public and large volume of visitors / tourists is to seek RA orders.

These orders will restrict the use of the air space above our heads up to a given height. Anything travelling into this area will be subject to restrictions with any breaches being investigate; those found to be in breach without good reason may be prosecuted.

Equally those with good reason or letter of exemption gaining prior permission to enter and use that air space will be able to do so, as many current do.

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide notification that an application for a Restricted Air Space Order is being drafted and centres on Windsor Castle, whilst also taking into account other locations close by. This will be a 1.5 mile ground radius from the Castle with a ceiling height of 2500ft.

**QUESTIONS & CONCERNS:-**

**What is a restricted air space order?**

All permanent and temporary restrictions of airspace are underpinned by Statutory Instrument (SI). A restriction will only be approved if it meets one or more of the conditions laid down in Article 239 of the Air Navigation Order

**Which governing body is responsible?**

The person requesting the restriction (sponsor) drafts the request and the CAA will review it from an airspace perspective. However, only the DfT (airspace division) can sign off the SI as access to airspace can only be authorised by the Secretary of State (or there nominated signatory). This is the same for Emergency Restrictions of Flying.

**Why is it being sought?**

This is sought to ensure the safety of the public, community and the iconic locations within the order and is based on security analysis.

**How long does it last for?**

This would be a permanent Restriction and therefore potentially indefinite but it would be reviewed at intervals to ensure that it was still valid and accurate

**What does it actually mean?**

It only impacts the airspace user groups mentioned in the SI – it will include drone operators, helicopter pilots, aircraft operators but exemptions for some groups may be granted.



**Microlights**



**Small Aircraft**



**Model Aircraft**



**Balloon Flights**



**Sky diving & Parachuting**

**Will commercial use of the air space be displaced over residential areas?**

Yes but the extent of which this is governed by the height of the Restricted Airspace. So if the top of the airspace is 1400ft then aircraft can fly over the top at 1500ft. Otherwise, unless they have an exemption then they must avoid it.

**Will private use of the air space be displaced over residential areas?**

The Restricted area will be marked on aviation charts only and published in the Aeronautical Information Publication. Geofencing of the area can be implemented which will trigger an alarm for drone operators

**What am I prohibited from doing?**

Operating in the area without permission

**How will this affect business – surveying / estate agents / schooling / local authority open spaces etc**

Access to the Restricted Area can be managed by the controlling authority (normally the sponsor) – a telephone number is published on the SI and in the AIP

**How is this going to be managed?**

Local flying clubs can apply for a letter of dispensation from the controlling authority which negates need for daily/weekly calls but otherwise it is done when required.

**Who enforces breaches?**

Reporting of breaches is the responsibility of the controlling authority. Investigation and potential follow up action on airspace related breaches is for the CAA

**Who do I notify to seek permission to use the airspace or if I've breached this?**

Access to the Restricted Area can be managed by the controlling authority (the sponsor or other nominated representative) – a telephone number is published on the SI and in the AIP.



Windsor Castle

**Prosecutions for breaches of restricted airspace are the remit of the CAA, with police providing evidence.**

The CAA infringements team investigate any breaches of the airspace based on evidence provided by the airspace authority (Those making the application). Any infringement being treated as “entering without permission” the volume of airspace published in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) and on any aeronautical chart. In this case the 1.5NM radius of the Restricted Airspace.

**Flying of small kites and balloons**

There will be an exemption in the SI to avoid the prohibiting of flying kites/balloons in nearby parks/open space. Most people are likely to be unaware of the airspace restrictions unless they routinely fly in the vicinity of the proposed RA. The police and local authority would deal with these matters as and when they are reported.

Pilots of hot air balloons would need to request approval to transit the Restricted Airspace in line with direction in the SI/AIP entry.

*Any concerns or queries should be addressed to the following email address by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

**[RAOWindsor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:RAOWindsor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**