



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence

**MILITARY LOW FLYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**STATISTICAL APPENDIX**

**2012 - 2013**

## INTRODUCTION

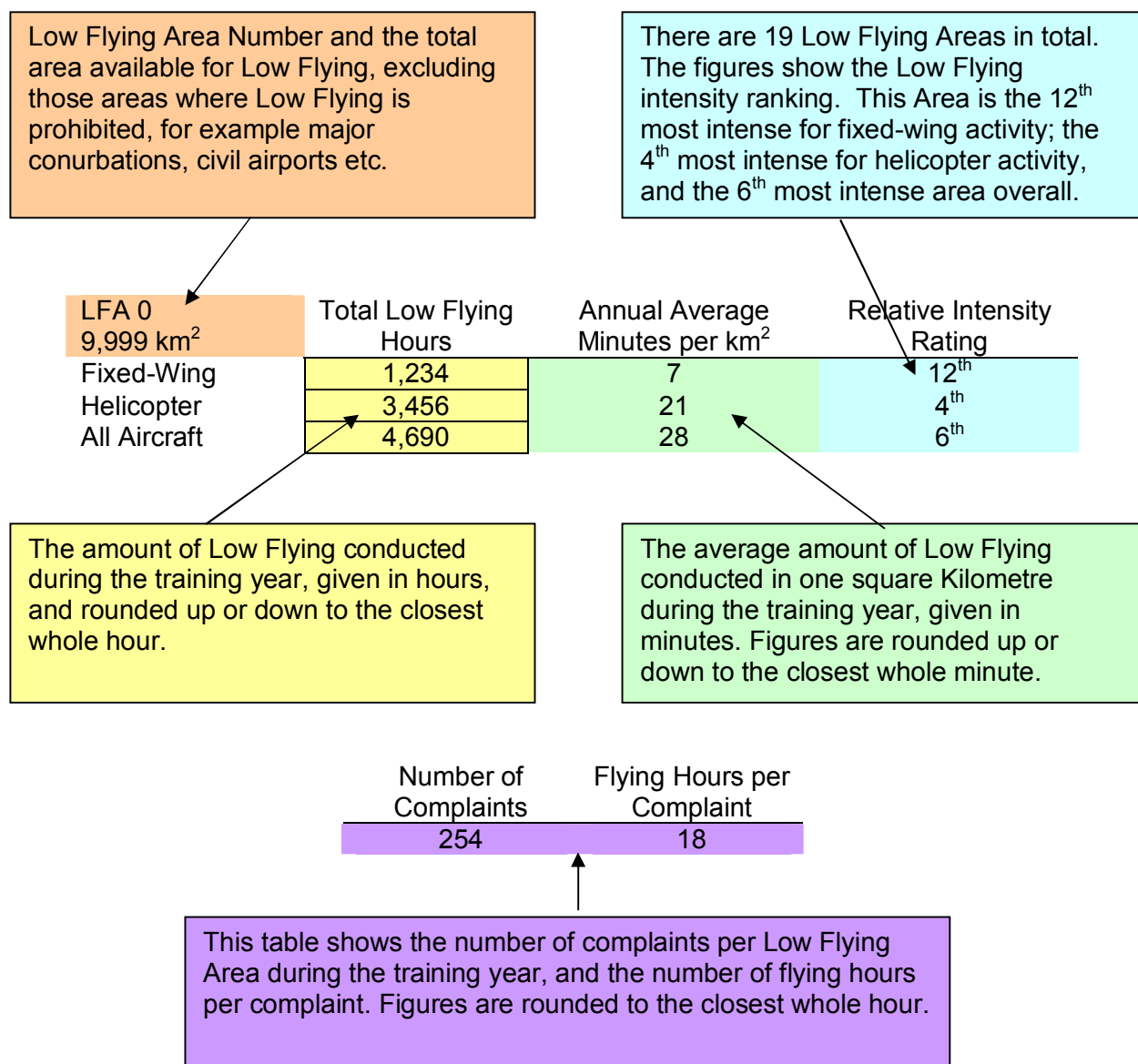
This appendix provides a statistical report on Low Flying training activity conducted in the UK Low Flying System for the period from April 2012 to the end of March 2013. This appendix should be read in conjunction with the master document “Military Low Flying in the United Kingdom”; both documents are available on-line at: [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)

The Low Flying and Complaint statistics for the training year 2012-2013 are given for each of the 19 Low Flying Areas.

Although the Night Low Flying System is slightly different than that by day, the statistics are all based on the 19 Low Flying Areas used during the day, with statistics for night low flying being mapped onto the day Low Flying Areas for ease of comparison.

### EXAMPLE AND EXPLANATION OF TABLES

An example of the tables is given below together with an explanation of how to interpret the information.



## LOW FLYING ACTIVITY LEVELS

### Routine Low Flying

The amount of routine Low Flying conducted in training year 2012-2013 shown in hours flown, is given in the table below:

	Fixed Wing	Rotary Wing	Total – All Aircraft
2012-2013	16879	25812	42691

In this training year, fixed-wing activity accounted for 39.5% and rotary-wing 60.5% of Low Flying activity. The table below shows a comparison with previous training years:

	Fixed Wing	Rotary Wing	Total – All Aircraft
2012-2013	16879	25812	42691
2011-2012	17016	31254	48270
2010-2011	18394	30757	49151

This year saw an overall decrease in Low Flying activity of 5579 hours or 11.6%. Fixed wing Low Flying decreased by 0.8% as a result of the increased deployment levels of Tornado GR4 operations in Afghanistan and Typhoon FGR4 & Tornado GR4 operations over Libya in support of NATO. Rotary wing training hours decreased by 17.4%. It is pleasing to note that efforts to reduce the very high concentration of rotary wing training in LFA 1 have met with success. This has been achieved through the introduction of additional night rotary training airspace to the North of LFA 1.

### Complaints

The total number of complaints received in this training year was 2215, a decrease of 22.0% from the previous year. The total number of complaints comprise 2090 for routine Low Flying, 28 for Operational Low Flying and 97 for military flying within the Thames Valley Avoidance Area<sup>1</sup>. Whilst this total includes complaints covering all types of military flying activity, including medium level Close Air Support training and sonic events that are not attributable to low level activity, the decrease is twice the magnitude of the reduction in Low Flying training.

### Operational Low Flying

The amount of Operational Low Flying conducted in this training year is given in the table below:

	LFA 7(T) Wales	LFA 14(T) Scotland	LFA 20(T) Borders	Total Operational Low Flying
2012-2013	36.1	67.1	64.1	167.3
2011-2012	16.6	60.3	57.7	134.6

This year, Operational Low Flying increased by 32.7 hours or 24.3% compared to the previous training year 2011-2012. Operational Low Flying accounted for just 0.4% of all Low Flying activity this year, confirming that only the minimum amount of Operational Low Flying necessary to meet operational readiness requirements is being conducted.

<sup>1</sup> The Thames Valley Avoidance Area covers the Greater London area whereby special restrictions are imposed on military flying due to population density and aerial congestion.

The total number of complaints received about Operational Low Flying during training year 2012-2013 was 28, a 55.6% increase over 2011-2012, which represents one complaint for every 6 hours of activity. The breakdown of complaints for the 3 Tactical Training Areas is given below:

LFA 7(T): 20

LFA 14(T): 0

LFA 20(T): 8



LFA 1	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
6775 km <sup>2</sup>	533	5	9 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	3907	35	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Helicopter	4440	40	4 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
383	12



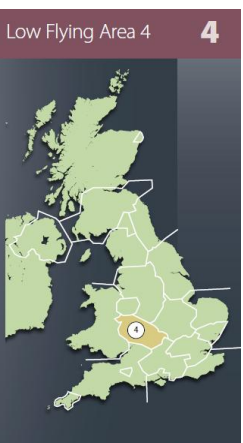
LFA 2	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
15,783 km <sup>2</sup>	1049	4	11 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	4789	18	6 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	5838	22	6 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
380	15



LFA 3	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
921 km <sup>2</sup>	914	60	1 <sup>st</sup>
Fixed-Wing	1229	80	1 <sup>st</sup>
Helicopter	2143	140	1 <sup>st</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
32	67

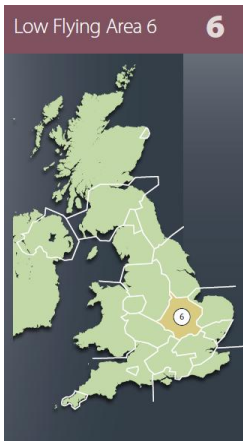


LFA 4	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
8,264 km <sup>2</sup>	741	5	7 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	1104	8	8 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	1845	13	10 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

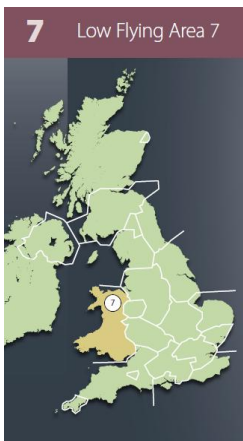
Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
119	16



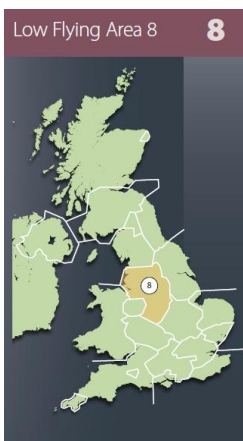
LFA 5	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
5785 km <sup>2</sup>	2180	23	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Fixed-Wing	1775	18	5 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	3955	41	3 <sup>rd</sup>
All Aircraft			
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
257	15		



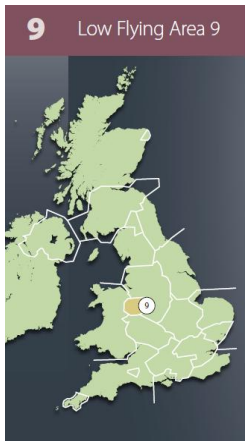
LFA 6	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
9308 km <sup>2</sup>	594	4	12 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	766	5	12 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	1360	9	14 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
106	13		



LFA 7	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
18,909 km <sup>2</sup>	2173	7	5 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	2247	7	10 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	4420	14	9 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
149	30		



LFA 8	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
8,718 km <sup>2</sup>	135	1	15 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	309	2	17 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	444	3	17 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			
<hr/>			
Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
62	7		



LFA 9	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
3,525 km <sup>2</sup>	1	0	19 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	2284	39	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Helicopter	2285	39	2 <sup>nd</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
110	21



LFA 10	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
2,900 km <sup>2</sup>	35	1	16 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	1530	32	4 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	1565	33	5 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
61	26



LFA 11	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
11,960 km <sup>2</sup>	1287	6	6 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	952	5	13 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	2239	11	12 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
100	22

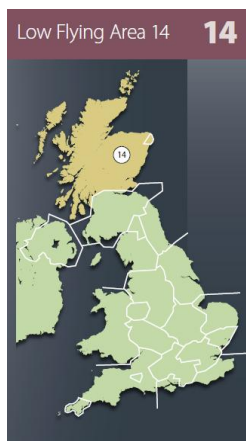


LFA 12	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
6,012 km <sup>2</sup>	707	7	4 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	683	7	9 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	1390	14	8 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft			

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
39	36

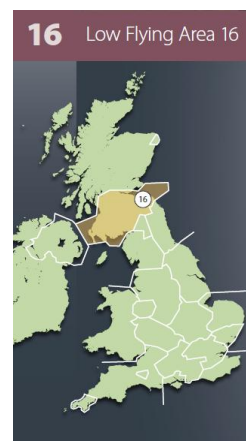


LFA 13	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
2,035 km <sup>2</sup>	366	11	13 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	170	5	8 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	196	6	11 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft	366	11	13 <sup>th</sup>
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
2	183		



LFA 14	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
57,604 km <sup>2</sup>	5304	6	16 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	3541	4	13 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	1763	2	16 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft	5304	6	16 <sup>th</sup>
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
91	58		

LFA 15	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
893 km <sup>2</sup>	11	1	19
Fixed-Wing	3	0	17
Helicopter	8	1	19
All Aircraft	11	1	19
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
0	NA		



LFA 16	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
16,142 km <sup>2</sup>	1868	7	15 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	1235	5	10 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	633	2	15 <sup>th</sup>
All Aircraft	1868	7	15 <sup>th</sup>
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Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint		
66	28		



Low Flying Area 17 **17**



LFA 17	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
11,295 km <sup>2</sup>	1362	7	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Fixed-Wing	897	5	14 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	2259	12	11 <sup>th</sup>

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
48	47

**18** Low Flying Area 18



LFA 18	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
3,390 km <sup>2</sup>	205	4	14 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	597	11	7 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	802	15	7 <sup>th</sup>

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
77	10

Low Flying Area 19 **19**



LFA 19	Total Low Flying Hours	Annual Average Minutes per km <sup>2</sup>	Relative Intensity Rating
8,337 km <sup>2</sup>	14	0	18 <sup>th</sup>
Fixed-Wing	142	1	18 <sup>th</sup>
Helicopter	156	1	18 <sup>th</sup>

Number of Complaints	Flying Hours per Complaint
8	20

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Information about Military Low Flying, planned exercises and planned use of Tactical Training Areas is available from the MOD Low Flying website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area>

Information about planned Low Flying activity on a daily basis can also be obtained from the free-phone telephone advisory service on 0800 51 55 44.

For further information about Low Flying, complaints and requests for permanent and temporary avoidance status contact:

Ministry of Defence Complaints and Enquiries Unit  
RAF Wittering  
Peterborough  
PE8 6HB

Tel: 0845 600 7580

Fax:

e-mail: [cas-lowflying@mod.uk](mailto:cas-lowflying@mod.uk)

Regional Community Relations Officers can assist with more local information and complaints, and can be contacted as follows:

Royal Air Force Community Relations Officer (Wales)  
The Barracks  
Brecon  
Powys  
LD3 7EA  
Tel: 01874 613 889  
Fax: 01874 613 897  
e-mail: [Air-XO-MCCROWales@mod.uk](mailto:Air-XO-MCCROWales@mod.uk)  
website: [www.raf.mod.uk/crowales](http://www.raf.mod.uk/crowales)

Northern Ireland External Relations Unit  
G9 Policy (FOI)  
HQ 38 (Irish) Bde & Northern Ireland Garrison  
BFPO 825  
Tel: 028 92263498  
e-mail: [38X-PolLeg-FOI-Mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:38X-PolLeg-FOI-Mailbox@mod.uk)

For claims against the Ministry of Defence resulting from Military Low Flying:

Ministry of Defence  
Common Law Claims and Policy Division  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Zone I  
MOD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB  
Tel: 020 7218 3545  
e-mail: [DJEP-CLCP-Claims2a@mod.uk](mailto:DJEP-CLCP-Claims2a@mod.uk)

