

ANNEX A: The current situation at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports

Heathrow

The airport is located approximately 13 miles (21km) west of the centre of London. It is surrounded by suburban housing, business premises and mixed use open land to the north and south; suburban housing and business premises to the east; and three large reservoirs, mixed use open land, housing and business premises to the west. Under Terminal 5 planning conditions, the number of air transport movements at the airport shall be limited to 480,000 each year. Heathrow carried 61.6 million passengers in 2022 and 1.3 million tonnes of cargo.¹

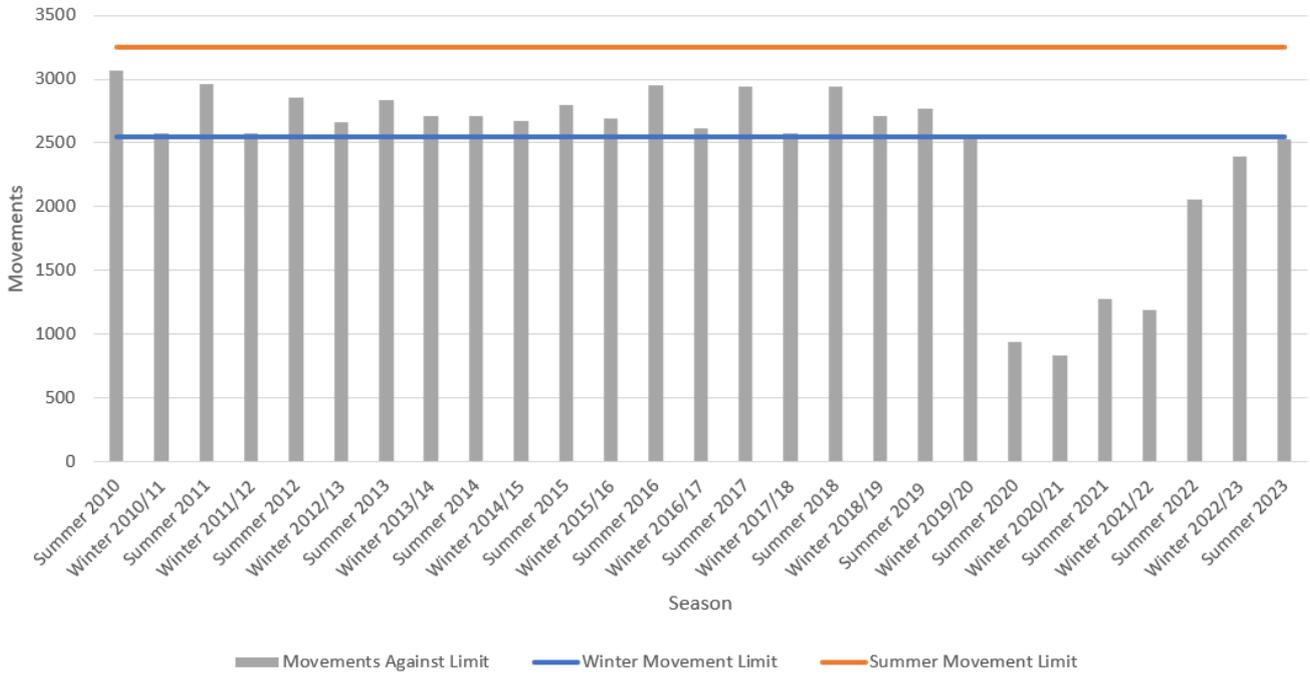
Existing night flight operations

Restrictions on night flights have been in place at Heathrow since 1962. Heathrow is currently limited to 5,800 night flights a year - 3,250 in the summer season and 2,550 in the winter season. This equates to approximately 16 flights per night on average.

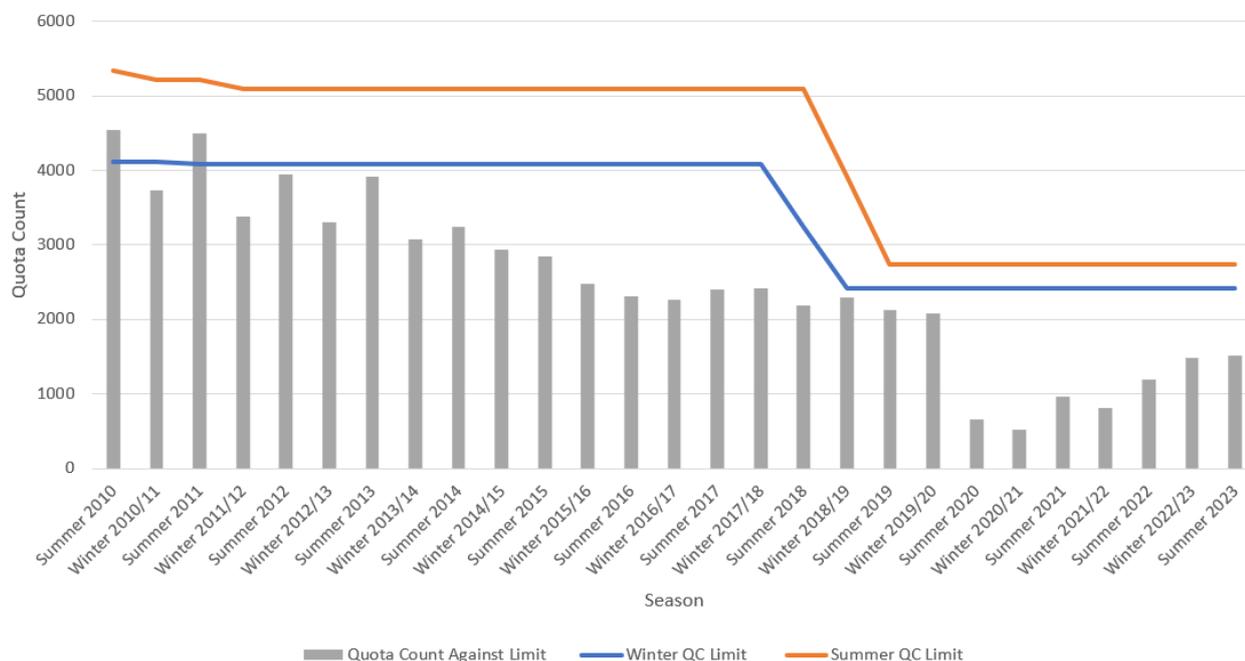
In addition to the movement limits imposed by the government, Heathrow also has a voluntary agreement in place that sees no flights scheduled between 23:30 and 04:30. It also prevents flights scheduled between 04:30 and 06:00 from landing before 04:30.

¹ source: CAA data - [Annual airport data 2022 | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/annual-airport-data-2022)

Heathrow Movements by Season



Heathrow Quota Count by Season



	Winter 2016-17	Summer 2017	Winter 2017-18	Summer 2018	Winter 2018-19	Summer 2019	Winter 2019-20
Movement Limit	2550	3250	2550	3250	2550	3250	2550
No. of Movements	2612	2938	2575	2942	2713	2766	2524
Quota Count Limit	4080	5100	4080	5100	2415	2735	2415
Quota Count Used	2259.25	2407.75	2414.5	2183	2296.75	2122.75	2076
Average Quota Count	0.86	0.82	0.94	0.74	0.85	0.77	0.82
Total no. of Dispensations	176	249	197	489	128	286	192
No. of Delay Dispensations	157	230	177	405	120	265	179
No. of Government Dispensations	0	0	0	56	0	0	0
No. of Emergency Dispensations	19	19	20	28	8	21	13

	Summer 2020	Winter 2020-21	Summer 2021	Winter 2021-22	Summer 2022	Winter 2022-23	Summer 2023
Movement Limit	3250	2550	3250	2550	3250	2550	3250
No. of Movements	941	835	1276	1187	2061	2390	2528
Quota Count Limit	2735	2415	2735	2415	2735	2415	2735
Quota Count Used	652.25	525.5	970.875	814.5	1190.375	1484.75	1507.625
Average Quota Count	0.69	0.63	0.76	0.69	0.58	0.62	0.60
Total no. of Dispensations	2	3	5	19	415	63	462
No. of Delay Dispensations	1	2	1	17	401	55	425
No. of Government Dispensations	0	0	0	0	1	0	24
No. of Emergency Dispensations	1	1	4	2	13	8	13

Gatwick

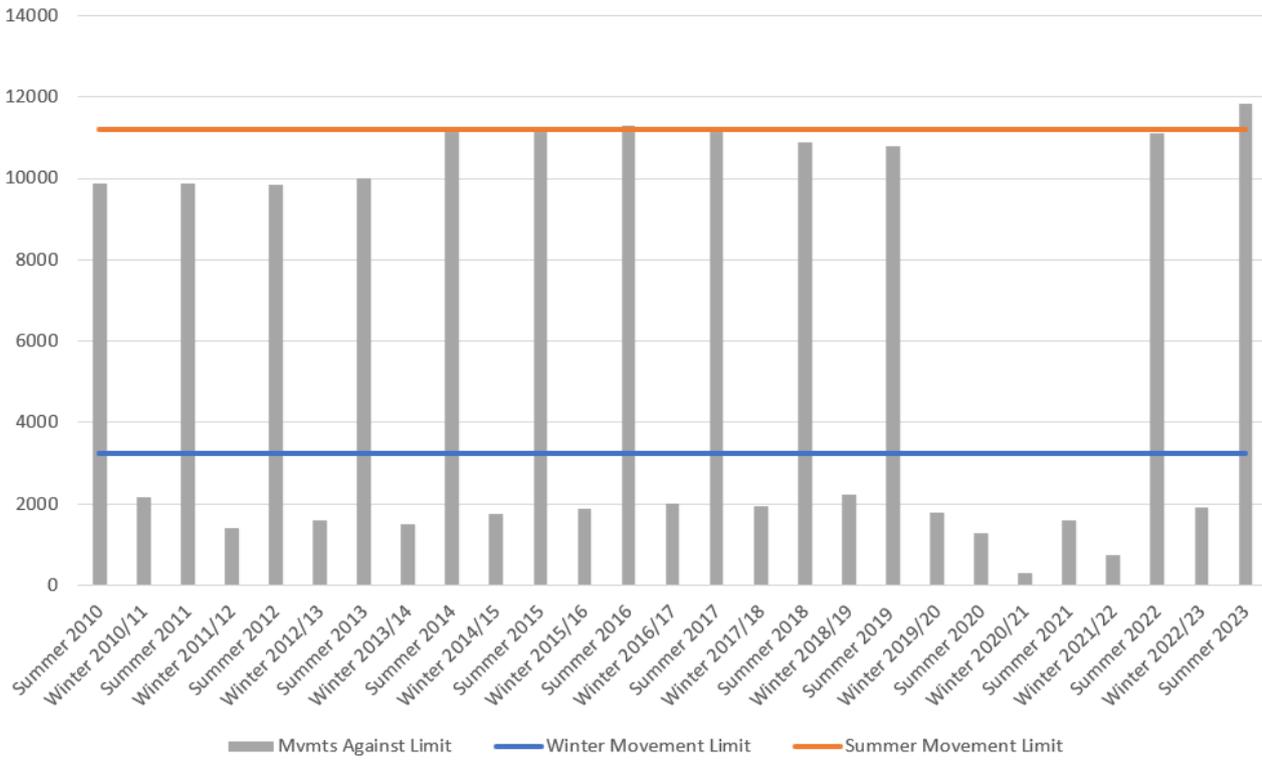
Gatwick has one main runway and has submitted an application for development consent to bring the airport's existing northern runway (previously a standby runway) into routine use alongside this main runway. Gatwick has two terminals, North and South. It is situated in mostly lightly populated countryside, although the airport does lie between the towns of Crawley and Horley. The airport is approximately 28 miles (45km) to the south of London and about 2 miles (3km) north of Crawley. Gatwick carried 32.8 million passengers and 36,407 tonnes of cargo in 2022².

Existing night flight operations

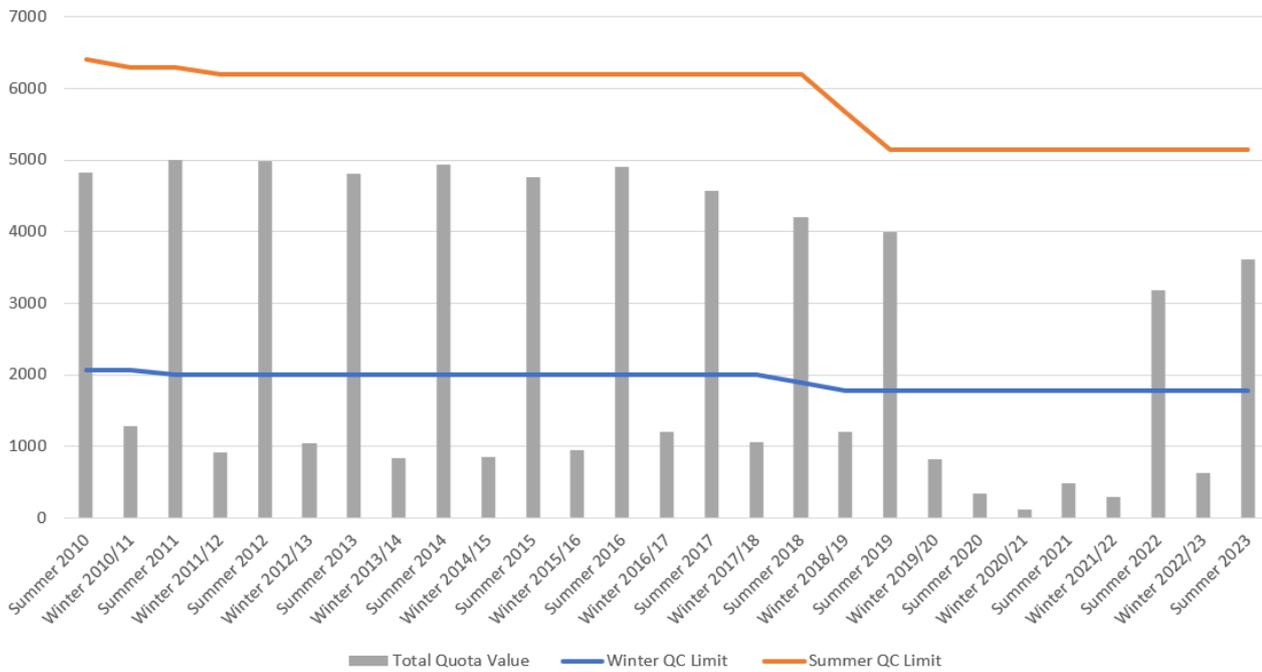
Gatwick's night flights are subject to much greater seasonal variability than Heathrow due to the different business models of the two airports, with a summer movement limit of 11,200 and a winter movement limit of 3,250.

² [Annual airport data 2022 | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/annual-airport-data-2022)

Gatwick Movements by Season



Gatwick Quota Count by Season



	Winter 2016-17	Summer 2017	Winter 2017-18	Summer 2018	Winter 2018-19	Summer 2019	Winter 2019-20
Movement Limit	3250	11200	3250	11200	3250	11200	3250
No. of Movements	2283	11650	2012	11888	2368	11566	1910
Quota Count Limit	2000	6200	2000	6200	1785	5150	1785
Quota Count Used	1198.25	4566.25	1052.25	4204.25	1197.375	3991.875	822
Average Quota Count	0.52	0.39	0.52	0.35	0.51	0.35	0.43
Total no. of Dispensations	236	421	73	1005	135	770	127
No. of Delay Dispensations	236	421	73	1005	69	768	127
No. of Government Dispensations	0	0	0	0	66	1	0
No. of Emergency Dispensations	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

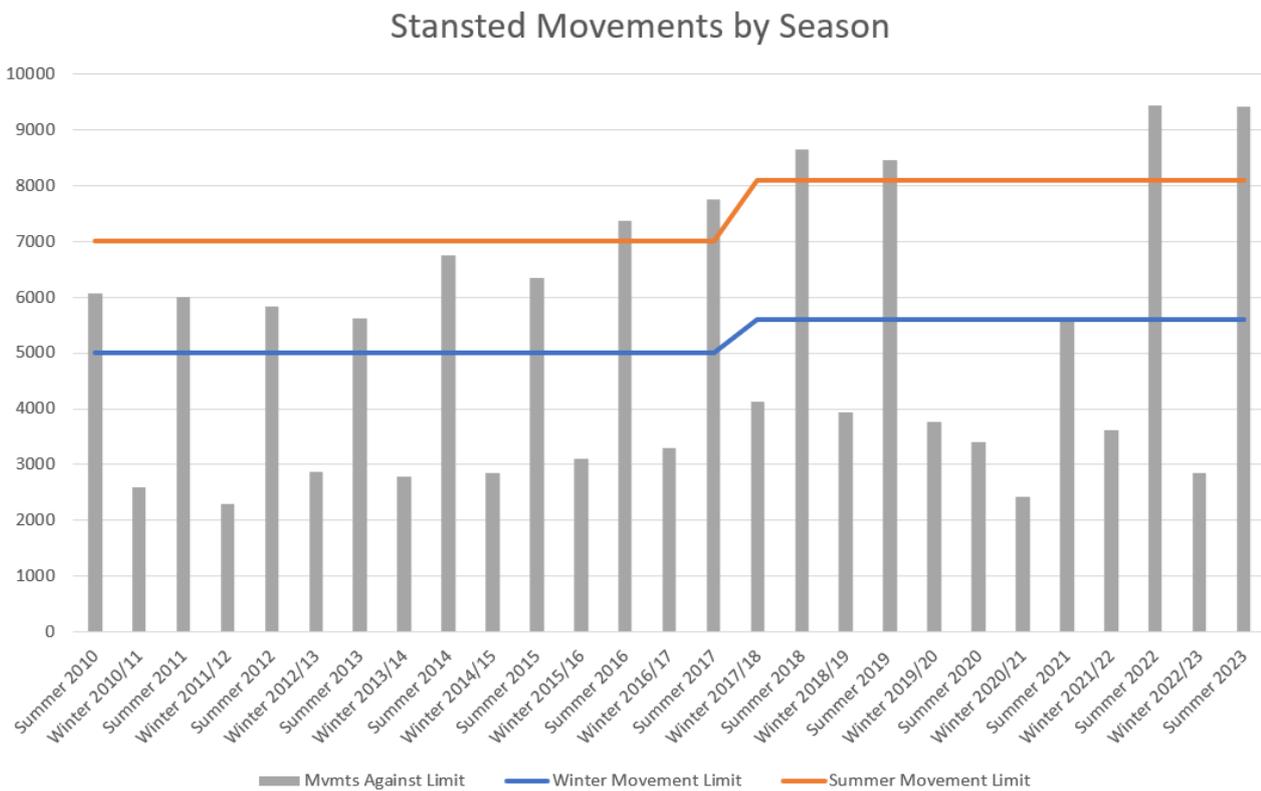
	Summer 2020	Winter 2020-21	Summer 2021	Winter 2021-22	Summer 2022	Winter 2022-23	Summer 2023
Movement Limit	11200	3250	11200	3250	11200	3250	11200
No. of Movements	1284	302	1590	783	11675	1998	13123
Quota Count Limit	5150	1785	5150	1785	5150	1785	5150
Quota Count Used	345.75	120.25	480.25	293.5	3189.625	636	3615.625
Average Quota Count	0.27	0.40	0.30	0.37	0.27	0.32	0.28
Total no. of Dispensations	0	0	0	26	576	84	1293
No. of Delay Dispensations	0	0	0	26	534	84	1265
No. of Government Dispensations	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
No. of Emergency Dispensations	0	0	0	0	42	0	4

Stansted

Stansted has a single runway and one terminal. It is situated 35 miles (56km) north-east of London and is surrounded by countryside and small villages to the north, south and east and the town of Bishop’s Stortford to the west. Stansted carried 23.2 million passengers and 243,153 tonnes of cargo in 2022³. A planning condition of 2021 imposed a night noise limit on operations at Stansted for the 8 hour night period (23:00-07:00) and becomes legally binding once the airport reaches a passenger throughput of 35 million passengers per annum. The additional noise limit is expressed as a night noise contour. It requires that the area enclosed by the night noise contour (48 dB LAeq 8hr) be no more than 74.0 square kilometres.

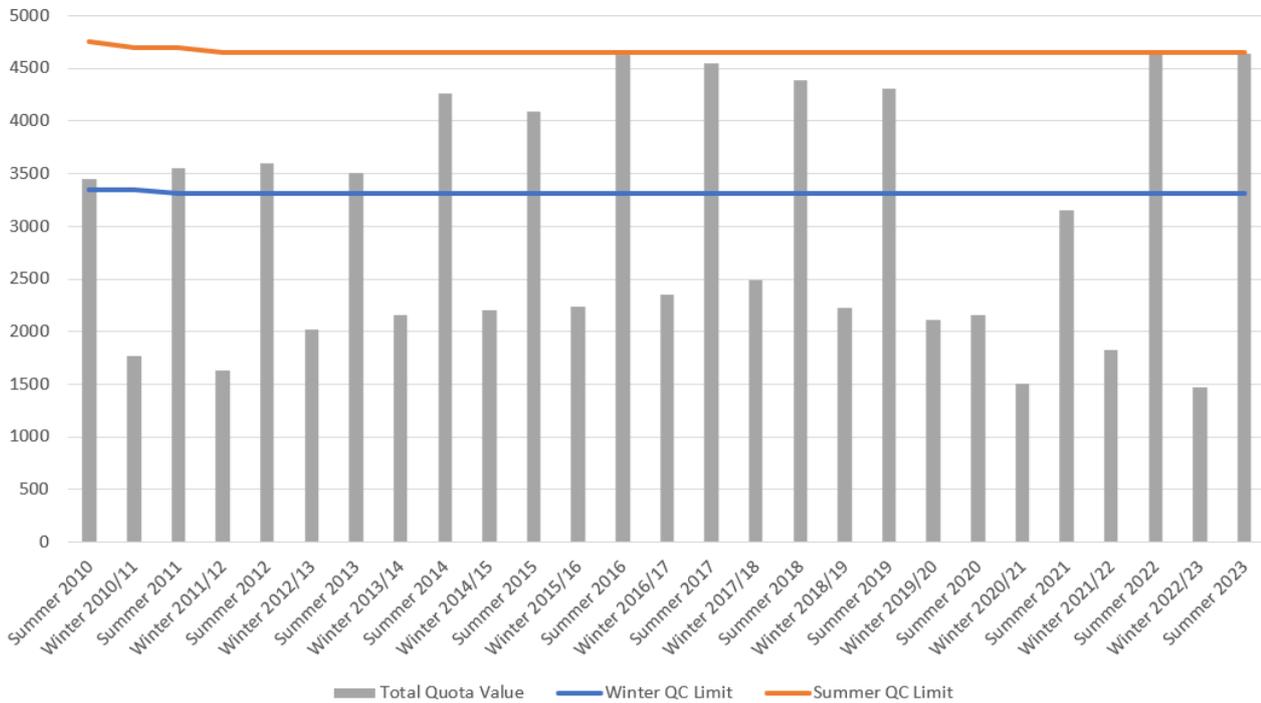
Existing night flight operations

Stansted has a movement limit of 8,100 in summer and 5,600 in winter.



³ [Annual airport data 2022 | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/annual-airport-data-2022)

Stansted Quota Count by Season



	Winter 2016-17	Summer 2017	Winter 2017-18	Summer 2018	Winter 2018-19	Summer 2019	Winter 2019-20
Movement Limit	5000	7000	5600	8100	5600	8100	5600
No. of Movements	3289	8737	4119	10354	3959	8837	3862
Quota Count Limit	3310	4650	3310	4650	3310	4650	3310
Quota Count Used	2348	4553	2491	4385	2230.75	4310.125	2113.25
Average Quota Count	0.71	0.52	0.60	0.42	0.56	0.49	0.55
Total no. of Dispensations	0	470	0	1720	12	382	94
No. of Delay Dispensations	0	458	0	1687	2	317	51
No. of Government Dispensations	0	8	0	3	0	20	1
No. of Emergency Dispensations	0	4	0	30	10	45	42

	Summer 2020	Winter 2020-21	Summer 2021	Winter 2021-22	Summer 2022	Winter 2022-23	Summer 2023
Movement Limit	8100	5600	8100	5600	8100	5600	8100
No. of Movements	3461	2422	5670	3666	10640	3057	10884
Quota Count Limit	4650	3310	4650	3310	4650	3310	4650
Quota Count Used	2163	1501.75	3154.5	1823.875	4662.25	1467.5	4637.625
Average Quota Count	0.62	0.62	0.56	0.50	0.44	0.48	0.43
Total no. of Dispensations	58	8	25	53	1201	210	1471
No. of Delay Dispensations	0	0	0	42	1119	184	1376
No. of Government Dispensations	7	0	1	0	7	4	37
No. of Emergency Dispensations	51	8	24	11	75	22	58