



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: 265195
Your Ref:

DATE: 16 August 2019

Alan Elliot
(by email)

Dear Alan Elliot

Restriction of Flying over Old Trafford Cricket Ground

Thank you for your enquiry to the Department for Transport of 12 August 2019 asking for the reasons why a restricted airspace (temporary) was placed over Old Trafford Cricket Ground on 8 July 2019.

As you may know, the department imposes 80 to 100 temporary restrictions of flying orders each year, as well as a number of emergency orders when these are deemed necessary. Such orders are imposed when they are considered necessary in the public interest or to maintain aviation safety. Each of these orders are established following requests from the relevant police force and after careful consideration of their impacts on aviation by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). In addition to major State events, airshows, and festivals, a significant number cover major sporting events such as Wimbledon, the British Open Golf Championship, the British Grand Prix, various horse racing festivals, and other ad hoc sporting events which this year included the Cricket World Cup.

To help minimise the disruption to airspace users by some of the temporary airspace restrictions, in the past year we have introduced orders which are specifically targeted against unmanned vehicles rather than manned aircraft. Prior to the establishment of these new arrangements, all restrictions of flying covered manned as well as unmanned civil aircraft. Since last year, the decision whether to go with an unmanned order rests with the CAA on a case by case assessment.

In the case of the Cricket World Cup, it was determined by the Police and CAA that unmanned restrictions were appropriate for many of the matches, including those at Old Trafford. These were therefore established before the World Cup commenced, and a copy of the Old Trafford order can be found at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/635/pdfs/ukxi_20190635_en.pdf

As you know, during the World Cup there were a number of flights near some of the match venues which gave cause for concern to the organisers, the Police, CAA and the department. In the days leading up to the World Cup semi-final match to be held at old Trafford on 9 July 2019, these concerns led to a formal request from the Police to the CAA to enhance the existing airspace restriction for Old Trafford. This request was considered carefully by CAA and the department, and led to an agreement to put in place an amending restriction covering manned as well as unmanned aircraft. A copy of this restriction of flying order can be found at:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/1102/pdfs/ukxi_20191102_en.pdf

There were further discussions regarding the second semi-final and the final but no further amendments to the established restricted airspace arrangements were considered appropriate.

I hope the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

David J Best

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