

Resumption of Recreational Flying

Stage 1

Present - 29th March - Instructor Currency Flights

Flying training and experience flights have taken place from Deanland Airfield since 2001 and following the November lockdown, poor weather during December and throughout this current lockdown, the Civil Aviation Authority has been faced with the dilemma of how to keep instructor pilots proficient enough to enable them to instruct once lockdown is lifted.

The resolution to this conundrum has ultimately been for the Civil Aviation Authority's Head of Policy and External Relations to issue the following statement:

“The current general aviation guidance in relation to COVID restrictions permits general aviation flying for the purposes of work, and the CAA has confirmed with the Department for Transport that this includes any activity that is “reasonably necessary” for an individual’s work, where there are no alternative options available. This would include pilots who need to keep up with required training or currency flights for their work, for example, a professional pilot or any pilot in possession of a current instructional qualification. Therefore, instructors are permitted to fly to maintain required training or currency”.

In summary to the above, and in specific relation to aircraft operations from Deanland, beginning imminently, instructor currency flights will commence to ready the flight instructors from Flight Sport Aviation for a return to student instruction no earlier than the 12th April.

Stage 2

29th March - Stay at Home requirement ends

From the 29th of March people will no longer be required to stay at home, and various “outdoor facilities” including airfields, will be permitted to open and what this stage entails for Deanland is that essentially, non-instructional, or, put another way, leisure/recreational flying can resume.

“This will allow the safe restart of general aviation flying for non-professional purposes for solo pilots, or individuals flying with a member of their household or bubble” – gov.uk. (See link below).

Stage 3

12th April – Onwards - Flight Training Resumption

On the 12th April, flight training for all pilots and flights with an instructor can resume. During this stage, our resident flying school (Flight Sport Aviation) will once again be able to open and conduct training flights whilst adhering to COVID-secure guidance.

From this stage onwards, the restrictions that still exist on any activities originating from Deanland Airfield will be more directed towards the airfield itself, rather than the aerial activities originating from it. For example, the number of people allowed to gather outdoors at Deanland will still be limited to 6 people or two households, and no indoor mixing (in any hanger or our club house for example) will be allowed. So essentially, the final change that the local environment may notice pertaining to Deanland Airfields activity, will be allowed to commence from the 12th April onwards.

With the impending return of aerial activity from Deanland, all previous noise abatement procedures will be in place throughout the season and into the future. Deanland Airfield remains committed to the assurance of being an asset to the local community rather than an imposition upon it.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): General Aviation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-general-aviation)