

Portable Noise Monitor Deployment

Our policy on how we handle your requests to locate a portable noise monitor in your area

Aircraft noise has long been recognised by Birmingham Airport as a sensitive issue for local communities and a comprehensive noise management programme has been in existence for many years. As part of this programme, Birmingham Airport operates a portable noise monitor that can be located in communities neighbouring the Airport. This policy explains how we monitor noise, how you can request for a portable noise monitor to be deployed in your area and how any data collected will be analysed and reported.

How do we operate our noise monitors?

The Airport Company constantly measures aircraft noise at six fixed noise monitors situated within the local community, where noise events (flyovers) are measured and recorded using the A-weighted Decibel dB(A). The decibel is a ratio that compares the sound pressure of the noise source (e.g. an aircraft) to reference pressure (the quietest sound we can hear). The A-weighting approximates the sensitivity of our ear to different frequencies (pitch) in the sound and helps to assess the relative loudness of various sounds.

These community noise monitors feed into the Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring System (ANOMS), which allows the Airport's Environment Team to monitor noise and track-keeping to help understand the impact of aircraft operations on local communities. ANOMS also allows the Environment Team to log community complaints, identify the cause of disturbance and respond to complaints regarding aircraft activity. There is also a further noise monitor located on the Airfield itself. In addition to these noise monitors, the Airport has a portable noise monitor which can be used to conduct noise monitoring studies at various locations within the local community.



If your location is deemed eligible for a portable noise monitoring study to be carried out, a noise monitor will be deployed for approximately one month. At present, we carry out an average of two portable noise monitoring studies per annum, this is dependent upon demand and resources available.

How to request portable noise monitor deployment to your area

To request that a portable noise monitor be located at your property, you will need to make your request, in the first instance, to your local Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) representative. Details of community representatives can be found on the Birmingham Airport website. Once a request has been raised, your ACC representative can bring this to the attention of the Committee at one of its quarterly meetings. The ACC, in conjunction with Birmingham Airport, will decide whether or not deployment to the area would constitute as an appropriate use of time and resources. This is subject to various factors including availability of the noise monitor, the appropriateness of the location and the number of studies Birmingham Airport can feasibly carry out each year.

Should the ACC approve the request, a representative from Birmingham Airport will visit the proposed location to ensure that it:

- Is secure
- Is free from obstruction
- Has a suitable area of level ground
- Is in an area with low background noise
- Is able to provide a power source (via a standard 3-pin plug)

Analysis and reporting

We will analyse all data collected by the portable noise monitor to establish any trends and to provide a detailed insight into the noise levels created by aircraft operations at the location. This will be compiled into a publicly available report and published on our website and will also be reported in to the ACC.