

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT UPDATE - JULY 2025

The Keston Noise Sensitive Area (NSA)

At the Keston Village Residents' Association (KVRA) Annual General Meeting in May Biggin Hill Airport's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. David Winstanley, gave a comprehensive presentation to residents highlighting the positive engagement between the KVRA and the Airport. He outlined the measures the Airport is taking to reduce the noise and disturbance to Keston residents as a consequence of Airport operations, significant elements of which have come about following the 2024 KVRA Monitoring Exercise. Residents acknowledged the work that has been done by the Airport and that actions are in place for more to be done.

This update covers the latest news from:

The KVRA's engagement with the Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum (ARNAF).

The KVRA continues to engage with and play an active part in the ARNAF. Two Working Groups have been established, one to look at what improvements can be made to the complaints process to make it more accessible, transparent and understandable for residents, and another to explore what Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) could be introduced to monitor and measure compliance on a range of measures, including those aimed at reducing noise and disturbance to residents. The Working Groups' membership is drawn from the ARNAF and chaired by a member of ARNAF. KVRA's Vice- Chair, Peter Zieminski will chair the KPI Working Group.

The Complaint Process Working Group had its inaugural meeting on the 24th of July and KVRA was represented by Peter Zieminski. The Working Group will meet on a bi-monthly basis with the eventual aim to make recommendations to the Airport CEO regarding further enhancements to the Noise Complaint Process and the introduction of Key Performance Indicators to monitor and measure compliance. The KPI Working Group is due to hold its inaugural meeting on the 7th of August.

If any resident has a suggestion regarding how the complaints process can be made more accessible and/or what KPIs could be introduced to monitor and measure compliance then please email them to us at: kestonaircraftnoise@gmail.com



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The KVRA application to become a member of the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee (BHACC)

As residents may have seen from the KVRA website (www.kvra.co.uk) our membership application to become members of the BHACC was approved on the 23rd of April this year. Peter Zieminski is the KVRA nominated representative and he attended the meeting held on the 31st of July. Minutes of the BHACC meetings can be found at:

https://bigginhillairport.com/community/airport-consultative-committee/

Progress to date of the Airport's Action Plan to actively reduce the number of non-approved incursions by aircraft across the Keston NSA.

The following objectives are being actively pursued by the Airport as part of its Action Plan in respect of the Keston NSA:

1. To reduce the number of number of non-approved incursions by:

• Understanding and acknowledging that a circling approach is permitted to fly into the NSA. *Proposed resolution: Introduction of the new 03 RNAV trial approach.*

The latest position regarding the introduction of the new 03 RNAV trial is that from:

- April to June 2025 simulations of the new procedure took place on both Bombardier Global Express XRS BD700 and Learjet 45 aircraft simulators in a variety of meteorological conditions. The proposed approach was flown comfortably and safely in all simulated conditions, confirming the flyability of the procedure.
- July to August Flight Validation will involve the approach being flown live subject to weather, Air Traffic Control (ATC) training and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approval of the validation plan.
- November 2025 the trial will be in operation.



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2. Reduce the number of helicopter penetrations. Proposed resolution: introduction and dissemination of the newly agreed Helicopter Code of Conduct (Version 3 – valid from the 1st of August 2024)¹.

This is an area of continued focus as there is still more that needs to be done. Appendix 4 below shows details of the 2025 KVRA Complaint Reporting which has focused predominately on helicopters. In summary so far this year 27 helicopters have been reported for incursions into the Keston NSA. Of these 18 complaint investigations concluded that there were no immediately apparent mitigations to show why the helicopter has crossed the Keston NSA and these were referred to the Airport's Safety and Noise Abatement Board (SANARB) for further review and for consideration of potential sanctions. At the time of this update, from these 18 referrals 6 formal warning letters have been issued to pilots or operators. A pilot or operator who receives three formal warning letters in a twelve-month period may be liable to further sanction including being banned from the Airport.

During the last ARNAF meeting on the 15th of July, Peter Zieminski raised the issue that that the noise 'cone' from underneath a helicopter is different to that from a fixed wing aircraft, and that helicopters can be outside an NSA and still create a noise disturbance. The CEO agreed and suggested that if that is the case, a resident could raise a complaint about noise rather than a track violation. The CEO reiterated that the Airport encourages helicopters to use 'Green Routes' (as set out in the *Helicopter Code of Conduct*) and that the Airport has trialled 'left-base' joins to avoid overflying Keston. Residents may wish to consider reporting helicopter noise as suggested by the CEO. KVRA's monitoring of helicopter noise will be adopting this suggestion in order that the fullest possible picture of disturbance from helicopter operations in the vicinity of Keston can be noted.

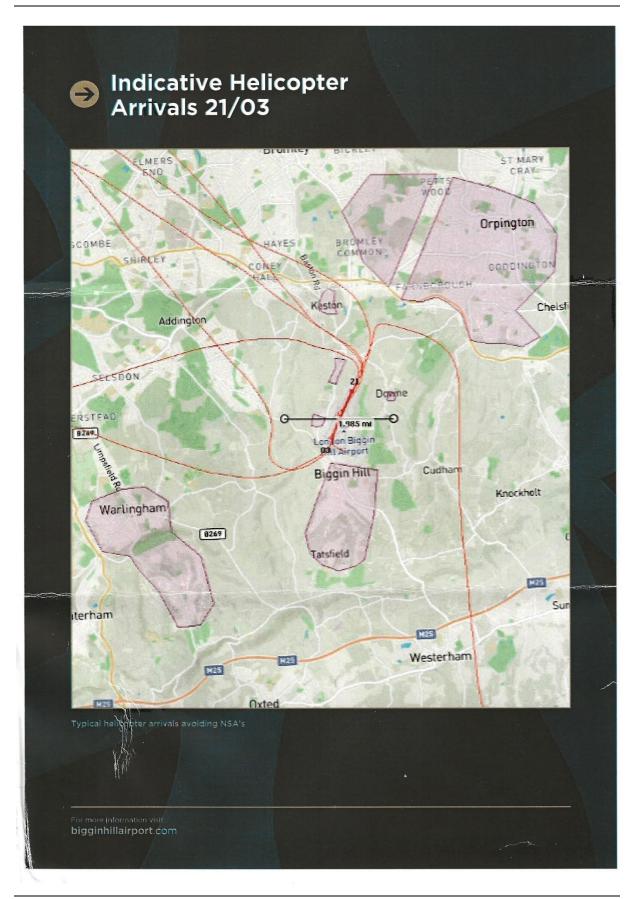
Helicopters rely on Visual Flight Rule flight-planning and navigation software produced by a company called Sky Demon to navigate and avoid NSAs; however, Sky Demon unilaterally removed the NSAs from their system and, even after a challenge from the Airport, they reinstated them but they were incorrect. This has now been resolved.

The Helicopter Code of Conduct sets out the indicative routes for arrivals (shown in red) and departures (shown in green). These are as follows:

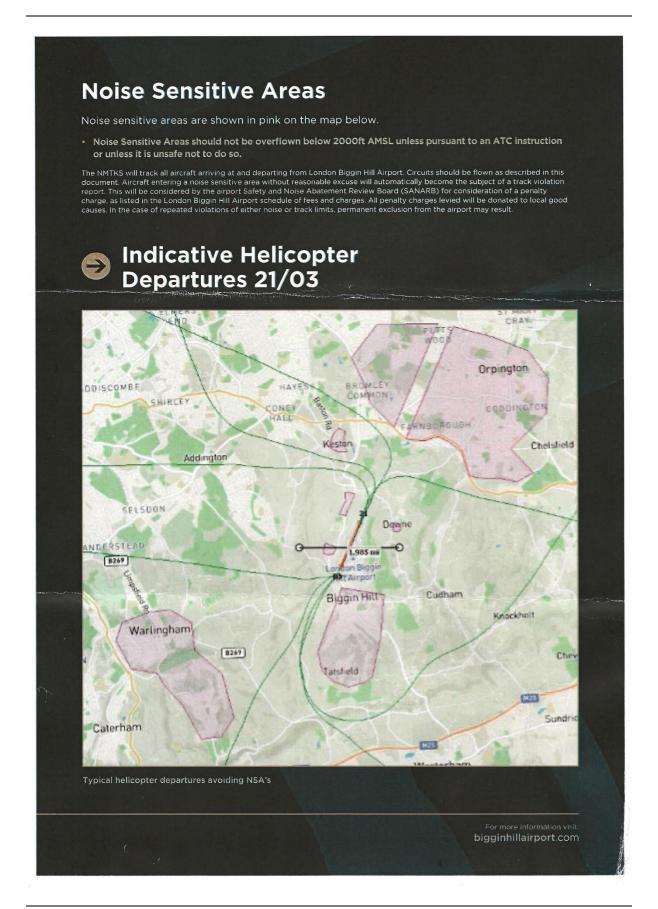
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¹ Similar to the Fixed Wing Noise Abatement Procedures (Version 3 – Valid from the 1st of April 2023) Helicopters flying Visual Flight Rules (VFR) should conform to light aircraft procedures unless ATC instruct otherwise or for safety reasons.











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It may be that any extension of the Keston NSA boundary to the West will result in helicopter arrivals and departures being further away from the edges of the NSA with a consequent reduction in noise and disturbance to residents.

3. Reduce the number of light aviation penetrations. Proposed resolution: specific campaign with EFG Flying School and then roll out to other operators.

The specific campaign is looking at the impact of an instruction to orbit for sequencing and the impact on pilot workload.

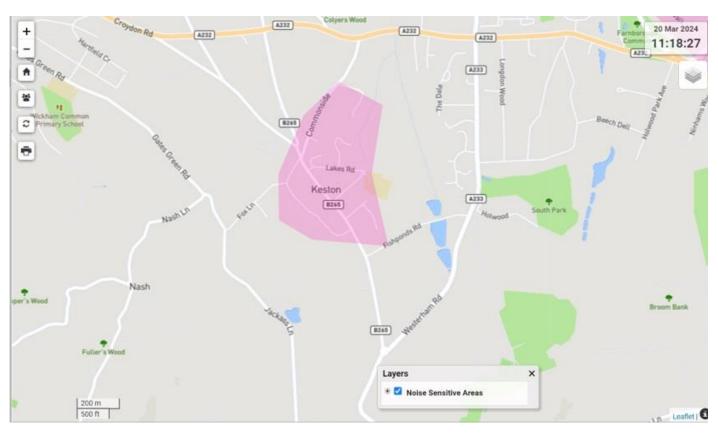
- **4. Review the boundaries of the Keston NSA.** The safety analysis undertaken by SANARB focused on the following key safety concerns:
 - Aircraft sequencing and the integration of Instrument Flight Rule (IFR)
 approaches on the Instrument Landing System (ILS) verses aircraft flying
 under Visual Flight Rules (VFR)
 - o Pilot and Air Traffic Control workload
 - Downwind checks prior to landing
 - o Volume (intensity) of Radio Transmissions during busy periods
 - Impact of left base joins
 - o Importance of maintaining a good lookout when flying in Class G airspace.
 - See and avoid safety principles.

As a result of the initial analysis, SANARB considered that a trial of any proposed/potentional alteration of the Keston should be undertaken with the support of both the Experimental Flying Group (EFG) a locally based Flying School and the newly formed Private Pilots Group (PPG). The trial NSA is attached at Appendix 3 and this will be programmed into WebTrak in August to allow for the trial to be undertaken as soon as practical.

4. Conclusion

Much has been achieved by the KVRA's continuing dialogue and direct engagement with the Airport. While acknowledging what has been done there is still more to be achieved by working in partnership with the Airport to reduce the noise and disturbance caused by Airport operations.

We would continue to encourage all residents adversely affected by aircraft noise and disturbance to register their complaint with the Airport by either telephoning them on 01959 587580 or by using the computer based WebTrak reporting system at https://bigginhillairport.com/community/noise/#feedback or by emailing the KVRA at kestonaircraftnoise@gmail.com



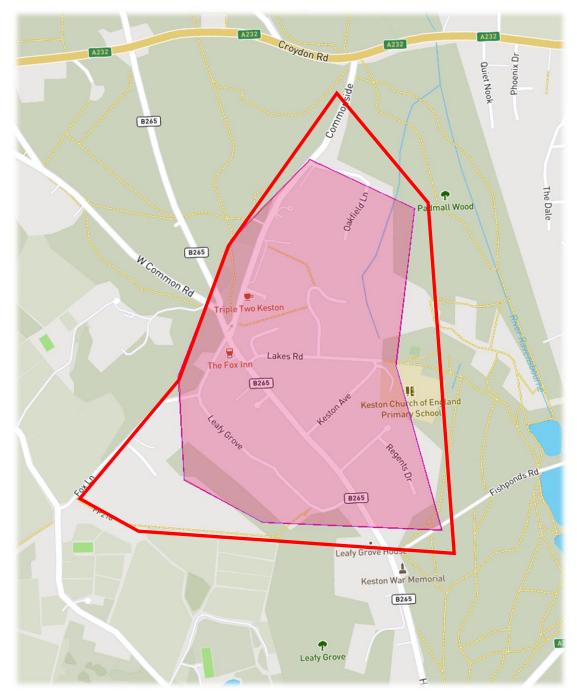
Current Keston NSA boundaries as used by WebTrak

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Indicative representation of the revised Keston NSA following the Airport's safety assessment to be the subject of the trial.



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Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
30/01/2025	07:33	HLE66	A109	Augusta Westland	900	4399	Helicopter	Departure	27/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (01/04/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (01/04/2025) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
23/02/2025	18:46	MIKEY	AS65	Aerospatiale	300	4433	Helicopter	Arrival	27/03/2025	SANARB Decision: Warning Letter issued to the Operator	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB. KVRA Comment - This Aircraft was the subject of 3 previous non- justifiable incursions into the Keston NSA during the 2024 KVRA Monitoring Exercise. AIRPORT REPLY (29/04/2025) This incident has been reviewed by SANARB and a warning has been issued to the operator.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
24/02/2025	17:47	CASTLE14	A109	Augusta Westland	800	4435	Helicopter	Arrival	11/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (28/03/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
12/03/2025	18:45	JKY164	A109	Augusta Westland	800	4462	Helicopter	Arrival	27/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (28/03/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting



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12/03/2025	19:06	JKY122	A109	Augusta Westland	500	4463	Helicopter	Arrival	27/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (28/03/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
14/03/2025	18:40	JOCKY123	A109	Augusta Westland	1000	4466	Helicopter	Arrival	17/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (28/03/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
14/03/2025	18:47	SOL7000	A109	Augusta Westland	700	4467	Helicopter	Arrival	17/03/2025	SANARB Decision Warning Letter issued to the Operator	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (06/06/25) First Warning issued by SANARB to the operator. The investigation has now reached Stage 5 and is closed.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
15/03/2025	12:13	CASTLE07	A109	Augusta Westland	1100	4470	Helicopter	Departure	17/03/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (28/03/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (28/03/25) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
15/03/2025	11:26	2РТХС	PC12	Pilatus	1200	4469	Turboprop Aircraft	Departure	17/03/2025	NFA by SANARB on 08/05/2025	AIRPORT REPLY (01/04/2025) This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (08/05/2025) This incident has been reviewed by SANARB and they are content with the information provided. The Board has agreed that no further action will be taken in this instance.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
26/03/2025	16:14	WDK25	EC45	Airbus Eurocopter	700	4476	Helicopter	Arrival	None Received	SANARB Decision - Warning Letter issued to the Operator	AIRPORT REPLY (29/04/2025) Aircraft was on a Visual Flight Rule (VFR) approach to Runway 21 joining from the NW with no conflicting traffic. The aircraft then overflew the Keston NSA with no immediately apparent mitigations. This investigation has now moved to Stage 4 of the complaints process and will be reviewed at the next Safety & Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB) for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (03/07/2025) This incident has been reviewed by SANARB and, as there was no reasonable mitigating reason for the NSA infringement, a warning has been issued to the operator.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
01/04/2025	19:05	GMEDY	A109	Augusta Westland	1000	4479	Helicopter	Arrival	02/04/2025	NFA	AIRPORT REPLY (25/04/2025) The aircraft was carrying out a circling approach to land on runway 03 and was at 1,004ft AGL (Above Ground Level) / 1,605ft AMSL (Above Sea Mean Level) as it passed the Keston NSA. Aircraft carrying out a circling approach to land on runway 03 are flown visually and accounts for the variation in track as aircraft will not be flown using specific navigational guidance system. Whilst there is a procedure minimum height, aircraft are flying visually under visual flight rules in Class G airspace and will reduce the height to position the aircraft to land. No further action will be taken.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
02/04/2025	08:30	CASTLE07	A109	Augusta Westland	1000	4480	Helicopter	Departure	02/04/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (24/04/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (24/04/2025) This aircraft departed Runway 03 and was instructed to contact Heathrow Special when near the Keston NSA but overflew the Keston NSA with no immediately apparent mitigations. This requires further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) CASTLE AIR stated incursion due an issue with the SkyDemon software - Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
06/04/2025	10:00	FLJ24	A109	Augusta Westland	900	4493	Helicopter	Departure	14/04/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (08/05/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (08/05/2025) This will require further investigation with the operator/pilot. The investigation has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) Response received from operator on 11/07/2025. Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
14/04/2025	07:07	CASTLE21	A109	Augusta Westland	886	4501	Helicopter	Arrival	15/04/2025	Referred to SANARB for review (08/05/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (08/05/2025) This incident will require further investigation with the operator/pilot. This investigation has now moved top Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) Operator finally responded. Will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
25/04/2025	13:01	SNX22	A109	Augusta Westland	900	4512	Helicopter	Departure	28/04/2025	SANARB Decision - Warning Letter issued to the Operator	AIRPORT REPLY (08/05/2025) This incident will require further investigation with the operator/pilot. The investigation has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the SANARB for consideration of potential sanctions. I will contact you again to provide you with an update on the outcome. AIRPORT REPLY (06/06/2025) First Warning issued by SANARB to the operator. The investigation has now reached Stage 5 and is closed.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
29/04/2025	13:04	MMLMW	B350	Beechcraft King Air	1200	4516	Twin Engined Aircraft	Arrival	None Received	Referred to SANARB for review (27/06/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (27/06/2025) Aircraft overflew the Keston NSA whilst undertaking an approved Touch & Go Circuit with no immediately apparent mitigation. This investigation has now moved to Stage 4 of the complaints process and will be reviewed at the Safety & Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB) for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) No response from operator. Will be reviewed at the August SANARB.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
01/05/2025	15:05	GSAVI	B505	Bell Jet Ranger	700	4522	Helicopter	Arrival	None Received	NFA	AIRPORT REPLY (08/07/2025) Aircraft was on a VFR (Visual Flight Rule) approach to land on runway 21 but overflew the Keston NSA. This was because it was following ATC instructions for sequencing. As this was for safety reasons to deconflict with other traffic, no further action will be taken. This investigation has reached Stage 3 in the complaints process is compliant, therefore this case is now closed.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
02/05/2025	12:15	EXPL	MD900	MD Explorer	600	4523	Helicopter	Arrival	20/05/2025	NFA	AIRPORT REPLY (20/05/2025) Aircraft was arriving onto Runway 21 and flew through the Keston NSA due to being sequenced with other aircraft. As this sequencing was for safety reasons to deconflict with other traffic, no further action will be taken. This investigation has reached Stage 3 in the complaints process and is compliant, therefore this case is now closed.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
02/05/2025	18:18	HLE27	H135	Eurocopter	400	4524	Helicopter	Arrival	None Received	Referred to SANARB for review (08/07/2025)	AIRPORT REPLY (08/07/2025) This incident will now require further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This investigation has now moved to Stage 4 and will be reviewed at the next Safety & Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB) for consideration of potential sanctions. I will contact you again to provide you with an update on the outcome. AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) Still awaiting response from operator - will now be reviewed at the August SANARB meeting



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
09/05/2025	08:03	CASTLE06	A109	Augusta Westland	900	4547	Helicopter	Departure	19/05/2025	SANARB Decision - Warning Letter issued to the Operator	AIRPORT REPLY (19/05/202) This incident will require further investigation with the operator and/or pilot. This investigation has now moved to Stage 4 of the complaints process and will be reviewed at the Safety & Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB) for consideration of potential sanctions. AIRPORT REPLY – (22/07/2025) This incident has been reviewed by SANARB and, as there was no reasonable mitigating reason for the NSA infringement, a first warning has been issued to the pilot and a reminder of the noise abatement procedures has been sent.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
22/06/2025	16:47	GCIWO	AS50	Airbus Helicopters	300	4619	Helicopter	Arrival	23/06/2025	NFA	AIRPORT REPLY (27/06/2025) This aircraft was on a VFR approach to Runway 21 from the West. This aircraft was then sequenced by ATC for safety reasons to deconflict against arriving or departing traffic. The sequencing of aircraft will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity for safety reasons whilst the conflicting aircraft may be at a significant distance away from the airport and travelling at differing speeds. The aircraft was following procedures. No further action will be taken.



Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
24/06/2025	18:11	CASTLE25	A109	Augusta Westland	1000	4626	Helicopter	Arrival	25/06/2025	NFA	AIRPORT REPLY (29/07/2025) The aircraft was following an ATC separation instruction and therefore no further action will be taken. Complaint will now be closed at Stage 3.
26/07/2025	15:30	CASTLE06	A109	Augusta Westland	1100	4680	Helicopter (Noise Complaint) Approx 400m South West of NSA)	Arrival	28/07/2025	Awaits	Awaits



	Date	Time	Aircraft ID	Туре	Make	Altitude	Airport Complaint Ref	Notes	Operation Arrival/Departure	Date Stage 1 Letter Received	Airport Decision	Stage Decision awaited/Further investigation
28	8/07/2025	08:08	CASTLE21	A109	Augusta Westland	900	4686	Helicopter (Noise Complaint) Approx 350m South West of NSA)	Arrival	30/07/2025	Awaits	Awaits