

Aviation legislation and GARs

Captains and pilots visiting undesignated ports in County Durham are required to follow our general aviation procedures.



The Terrorism Act 2000 (as amended by the Crime and Security Act 2001) requires that all Aircraft entering/leaving the mainland of Great Britain to or from Northern Ireland, Eire, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands (Common Travel Area [CTA]) must call at a designated Port.

The exception to this rule is if the pilot gives at least **12 hours' notice in writing** to the Police Force, in whose area he is landing or departing from, of his intention to use a non-designated port.

This enables various security checks to be completed and allows the police such time if appropriate to examine the aircraft and crew. The obligation to give notice is imposed upon the 'Captain' of the Aircraft and it is an offence to fly without such notice being given.

It is an offence under the Act to fail to comply with this requirement.

Durham Police applies the following policy to meet the requirements of the Act in respect of non-designated Ports (airfields) within its force area.

In relation to all proposed CTA flights to or from non-designated ports, the captain / pilot must complete page one of the General Aviation Report (GAR) and submit this to us, giving at least 12 hours prior notification.

The option does exist for those wishing to fly at very short notice to use a designated Port.

We also recommend as a matter of best practice that if you are flying from a County Durham non-designated airfield to any destination outside mainland UK, you submit a General Aviation Report form to Durham Police.

The unit works closely with other agencies in particular the UKBA and HM Revenue and Customs, however we do not, as a matter of course, copy on any GAR notifications to these agencies, and recommend that you advise them as per their legal requirements independently of any notifications sent to us.

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act gives the police, powers to examine any flight arriving or departing any airfield irrespective of its destination - this includes internal flights within the UK