

From: Wing Commander Jas Hawker RAF
Officer Commanding The Red Arrows

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE RED
ARROWS**

Royal Air Force Scampton
Lincolnshire
LN1 2ST
Tel: +44 (0) 1522 733001
Fax: +44 (0) 1522 733003
Email: rafat-oc@scampton.raf.mod.uk

LS1 2SQ

Tuesday 20th January 2009

Dear

FLYING COMPLAINT

I'm writing to you following your phone call to my Public Relations Officer on Monday 19th January in relation to the flying by the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team over your home in Brattleby.

I would like to begin by offering my sincere apologies for any disturbance caused to you. The Red Arrows are in the business of displaying the professionalism and expertise of the RAF whilst giving pleasure to millions of people around the world. At the same time we readily acknowledge that not everyone likes the associated noise and I am very sorry that our aircraft have been causing you some concern.

I understand that you have lived in Brattleby for many years and do understand how our flying programme works and our need to practise our displays. However, you do have concerns over the height of our aircraft as they come over your garden, as well as worries about the noise and the effects of the smoke.

Please be assured that we take health and safety concerns very seriously. All of our operating procedures are subject to very strict controls and tests to ensure that there is no danger to the public.



In order to practice safely and effectively, the Team use an area of restricted airspace covering a 5.7-mile radius from the Air Traffic Control Tower at RAF Scampton, extending from ground level up to a height of 9,500 feet. This area has been assessed over many years as the necessary area required taking into account the extensive manoeuvring of the aircraft. As a safety measure, this airspace is activated as an exclusion zone (known as R313). No other aircraft, military or civilian, may enter R313 at any time without prior permission; this guarantees safety from external collision risks when the Red Arrows are operating. Inside R313 the main Red Arrows formation is authorised to fly down to a minimum of 300 feet above the ground. In addition the Synchro Pair are authorised down to 100 feet above ground level when flying within the confines of the airfield.

All sorties are observed and videoed from the ground and debriefed in detail to ensure that our high standards are maintained.

Subject to weather conditions and training requirement, there are normally six 30-minute practice slots set aside each working day for the Red Arrows to practice during the winter months. These are as follows:

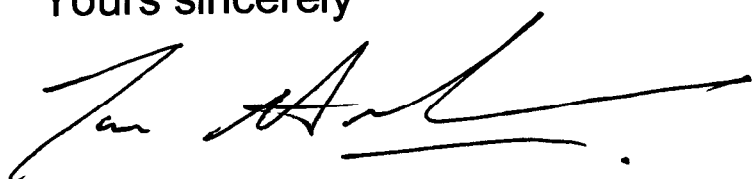
Slot	Take off	Land
1	0910	0940
2	0945	1015
3	1130	1200
4	1220	1250
5	1340	1420
6	1500	1530

It may be of interest to you to note that the Team are scheduled to be away from RAF Scampton practicing overseas from mid-March to mid-May 2009. After May there will only be occasional practices here at Scampton in order to ensure that the display is to the consistently high standard that we aim to deliver at every air show. Other Red Arrows flying will consist of Team transits to and from displays around the UK and Europe.

I hope that I have gone some way towards explaining the reasons why the aircraft operate in the way that they do. The Red Arrows are in the business of giving pleasure to millions of people around the world, and over 15 million people in the UK watch the Team each year at over 90 shows and over 50 dedicated flypasts. Nevertheless we readily accept that some people find our flying both irritating and upsetting when it occurs close to them every day.

On behalf of the Team may I offer my renewed apologies and assure you that in the execution of our training and operations we take safety very seriously and make every effort to minimize inconvenience to the general public. If you would like to come and visit us at RAF Scampton to find out more about how we operate you would be most welcome. I understand that your grandchildren have an interest in the Red Arrows if you would like to bring them along too we would be more than happy to accommodate them.

Yours sincerely



Jas Hawker
Wing Commander