Heights of Aircraft Arriving at Heathrow since 2010

A short investigation by HACAN

We looked at three places:

Leytonstone, in North East London, 20 miles* from Heathrow

Stockwell, in South London, 15 miles from Heathrow

Kew Green, in West London, 7 miles from Heathrow

*but about 25 miles in reality as the aircraft don’t take the most direct route

What we looked at:

We took an address in each area and looked at the aircraft coming within a radius of 0.5 miles of it on the same three days in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2019.

We also looked at the size of the planes landing at Heathrow.

All the data is from Heathrow’s xplane: http://xplane.emsbk.com/xplane/

In summary we found:

- The heights of the planes have not changed significantly over the last decade

- There has been an increase in the number of ‘super heavy’ aircraft landing at the airport

- The increase in larger, heavy aircraft could explain the persistent comments we get from residents that planes are lower.
Leytonstone

October 24/25/26 2010: 118 planes in total
Heights: Majority of planes 5,000 – 6,000ft

October 14/15/16 2012: 194 planes in total
Heights: majority between 5,500 and 6,500
October 22/23/24 2014: 126 planes in total
Heights: majority between 5,000 and 6,000

October 18/19/20 2016: 165 planes in total
Heights: majority between 5,000 and 6,000
October 7/8/9 2019: 391 planes in total
Heights: majority between 5,000 and 7,000

Stockwell

October 24/25/26 2010: 1755 planes in total
Heights: Majority of planes 3,000 – 4,000ft
(most just under 4,000ft)
October 14/15/16 2012: 1856 planes in total
Heights: majority between 3,000 and 4,000 (most just under 4,000ft)

October 22/23/24 2014: 1944 planes in total
Heights: majority between 3,200 and 4,200
October 18/19/20 2016: 1891 planes in total
Heights: majority between 3,300 and 4,200
(most just under 4,000ft)

October 7/8/9 2019: 1983 planes in total
Heights: majority between 2,900 and 4,200
October 24/25/26 2010: 821 planes in total
Heights: Majority of planes 1,800ft

October 14/15/16 2012: 979 planes in total
Heights: Majority of planes 1,800
October 22/23/24 2014: 1001 planes in total
Heights: majority of planes 1800

October 18/19/20 2016: 1059 planes in total
Heights: majority of planes 1800ft
October 7/8/9 2019: 998 planes in total
Heights: majority of planes 1800ft

Comments
1. The heights of the planes have not changed significantly over the last decade
2. The number of ‘super heavy’ aircraft has increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Heavy</th>
<th>Super Heavy</th>
<th>Light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3. The increase in larger, heavy aircraft could explain the persistent comments we get from residents that planes are lower.

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