

Operation of Fireworks, Searchlights, Toy Balloons, and Sky Lanterns within the Bailiwick of Guernsey Airspace

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1. Introduction

Individuals or organisations wishing to direct light sources, pyrotechnics, or fireworks into the air are to do so in a safe and sensible manner, as mandated by The Civil Aviation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) law 2012.

1.1 Aim

The purpose of this guidance is to outline local policy and provide individuals and organisations planning to conduct these activities within the Bailiwick of Guernsey a way to notify Guernsey Airport. This notification allows the aviation community to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activity and implement necessary measures to ensure flight safety.

2. The Threat to Aircraft Safety

2.1 General

The use of lasers, searchlights, fireworks, helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns is now widespread throughout the UK, and their use has the potential to impact upon aviation activity.

Lasers and searchlights make use of a generated light source to produce intense and directional beams of light, which can dazzle pilots and have the potential to cause damage to the human eye, and which can be exacerbated should a pilot be wearing night-vision goggles or similar devices.

Unexpected fireworks could distract and confuse pilots and cause damage to aircraft in flight. Helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns have the potential of causing damage to engines through ingestion.

Additionally, debris from sky lanterns dropping to the ground could produce Foreign Object Debris (FOD), which could cause damage to aircraft should any remnants land on the manoeuvring areas of an airfield. The risk to aviation is increased when such activities take place in the vicinity of aerodromes, particularly during those critical phases of flight associated with taking off and landing

2.2 Search Lights

Searchlights are frequently used to provide spectacular backdrops to individual events. They are also used to provide lighting displays for structures or special events over periods of weeks or even months. Search lights can cause distraction to pilots, visibility issues and interference with night flying operations.

2.3 Fireworks

Firework displays can vary from the small-scale garden event to a major commercial or ceremonial occasion; they have the potential to distract and confuse aircrews or damage aircraft during flight operations. A feature of fireworks displays is that solid objects are physically launched into the air to create the full visual effect. Many fireworks associated with large-scale events can dispense canisters several hundred feet into the air. Whilst the risk of collision with aircraft is small, the existence of such projectiles needs to be considered when carrying out an assessment for firework displays in the vicinity of aerodromes.

2.4 Helium-Filled Toy Balloons

The release of helium-filled toy balloons is viewed as a valuable source of publicity and/or fundraising at many events. However, the conduct of such activities in the vicinity of aerodromes could present a risk to aviation.

2.5 Sky Lanterns

Sky lanterns vary in size and performance and when released can travel a considerable distance from the release point at unpredictable heights on prevailing winds. This unpredictability of flight could cause sky lanterns to become a risk to aviation through airborne engine ingestion, or on the ground as sky lantern debris has the potential to become FOD which can cause damage to aircraft.

3. Light (Temporary), Firework Displays, Helium-Filled Toy Balloons and Sky Lanterns Release Guidelines

3.1 Action by Organisers of Light (Temporary) and Firework Displays, and Helium-Filled Toy Balloons and Sky Lantern Releases

For Light (temporary) and Fireworks displays, and helium-filled toy balloon or sky lantern releases, organisers should notify Guernsey Airport of their proposed activity by completing the notification form [Safeguarding Permits and Event Applications](#).

Guernsey Airport will examine the proposal based on the guidelines detailed within this document. If no further information is required, then the appropriate warnings will be promulgated.

All releases within the red areas indicated on the map in Annex 1 must be coordinated with Guernsey Airport **as early as possible, and no later than 7 days before the event**. This advance notice enables a proper assessment of the planned activities and allows sufficient time to implement necessary control measures and issue relevant notifications to the aviation community.

3.2 Guidelines for Light (Temporary) and Firework Displays

It is of prime importance that Light (temporary), and Fireworks displays are never directed at or towards aircraft or aerodromes.

The Event Organiser (EO) should nominate a single point of contact, known as a Display Operator (DO), who will be directly responsible for the conduct of the actual event.

EOs should be aware of the geographical zone illustrated in Annex 1 of this document, within which the Guernsey Airport considers it necessary to impose restrictions to protect flight operations, specifically:

- a) within three nautical miles of an aerodrome's notified Aerodrome Reference Point (ARP) or similar; or
- b) within ten nautical miles of the notified ARP along the track of the extended runway centreline and 500 metres either side of said centreline.

1. *Within this chapter the word 'Light' is used in the text to group Lasers and Searchlights*

3.3 Additional Guidelines for Firework Displays

Aerial fireworks displays should be limited to a height of 1,500 ft above ground level. Any firework conforming to BS7114/BS EN 14035-36 will not exceed this height.

Displays within a ten nautical mile radius of an active aerodrome or within an Aerodrome Traffic Zone (ATZ) may require notification and co-ordination action and must be notified by the EO to Guernsey Airport for consideration.

If the fireworks display is planned to take place near the coast, the organisers should pass all the relevant details to Guernsey Coastguard 14 days prior to the event, this can be communicated by emailing: coastguard@jescc.gov.gg

3.4 Guidelines for Helium-Filled Toy Balloon and Sky Lantern Releases

Guernsey Airport will usually consider placing restrictions upon the request for such releases as follows:

- a) within five nautical miles of an aerodrome for helium-filled toy balloons.
- b) ten nautical miles or less from an aerodrome for sky lanterns.

NOTE: All applications are considered on their individual merit.

3.5 Additional Guidelines for Helium-Filled Toy Balloons

Releasing more than 1,000 balloons requires specific permission from the Director of Civil Aviation, with a notice period of 28 days.

Balloons must be made of latex or rubber and should not have any metallic materials or finishes.

Balloons should not be tied together, and it is strongly advised to avoid using plastic inserts, as well as strings, streamers, or ribbons to secure the balloons.

3.6 Additional Guidelines for Sky Lanterns

The following guidelines are to be observed for the release of sky lanterns:

- a) Any individual or group releasing sky lanterns should contact Guernsey Airport prior to release.
- d) If the sky lantern release is planned to take place on or near the coast, the EO should pass all the relevant details to Guernsey Coastguard prior to the event.

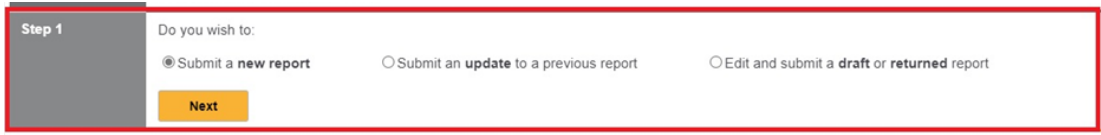
4. Annex 1 Notification Zones for Light and Firework Displays Map



5. Annex 2 Notification Form

All notifications must be submitted through the Guernsey Airport website at **least 14 days** before the event. You can do this by visiting [Safeguarding Permits and Event Applications](#) .

After accessing the website, click on the '**Event Application Form**' field. When prepared to submit a request, choose 'Submit a new report'. The request can be submitted either as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

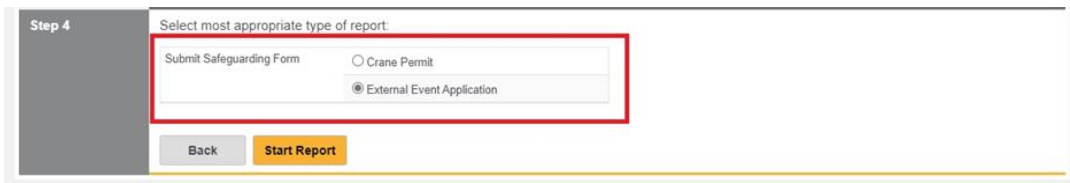


Step 1 Do you wish to:

Submit a **new report** Submit an **update** to a previous report Edit and submit a **draft** or **returned** report

Next

After providing the initial details, the person submitting the request must choose the '**External Event Application**' field.



Step 4 Select most appropriate type of report:

Submit Safeguarding Form Crane Permit
 External Event Application

Back **Start Report**



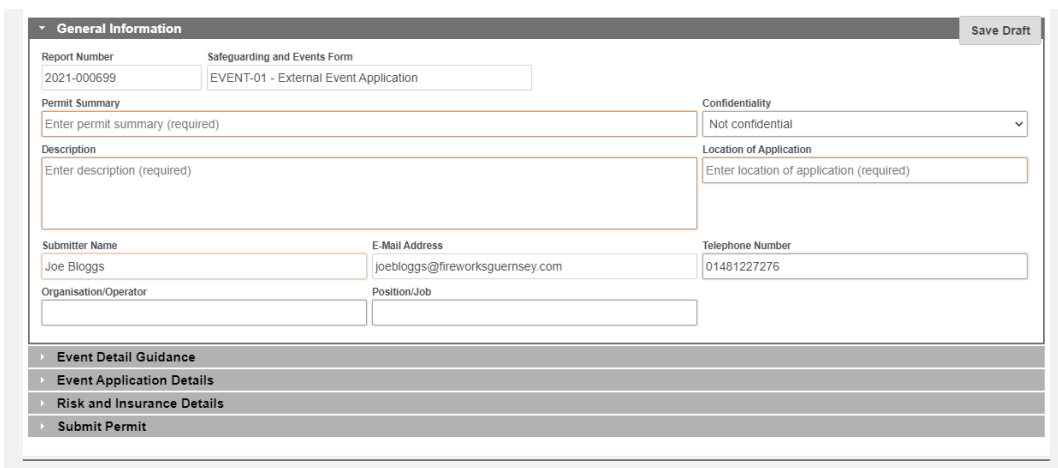
Step 3 Provide your details below:

Submitter Name: Joe Bloggs E-Mail Address: joebloggs@fireworksguernsey.com Telephone Number: 01481227276
Re-Enter E-Mail Address: joebloggs@fireworksguernsey.com

Add additional email addresses to notify when Report is submitted?

Back **Next**

The individual must fill out all required fields before submitting the event application. However, certain fields (e.g., Risk and Insurance details) may not be applicable and can be left blank. Guernsey Airport may request additional information if necessary.



General Information Save Draft

Report Number: 2021-000699 Safeguarding and Events Form: EVENT-01 - External Event Application

Permit Summary: Enter permit summary (required) Confidentiality: Not confidential

Description: Enter description (required) Location of Application: Enter location of application (required)

Submitter Name: Joe Bloggs E-Mail Address: joebloggs@fireworksguernsey.com Telephone Number: 01481227276

Organisation/Operator: Position/Job:

- Event Detail Guidance
- Event Application Details
- Risk and Insurance Details
- Submit Permit

Upon completion, Guernsey Airport will assess each application. Applicants identified as being within high-risk areas may need to obtain prior approval from Air Traffic Control before any release or display occurs. This requirement will be communicated to the applicant once the assessment is finalized.

6. Further Information

For further information please contact Guernsey Airport.

Email: airportssems@gov.gg

Telephone: 01481 227766