

Gibraltar Director of Civil Aviation

Wildlife Management

Policy 10

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Revision History

Version	Item	Date
1	First Issue	13/04/2023
2	Minor Typographic Amendments	22/11/2023

Introduction

1. Birds are a known hazard to aviation; Gibraltar's topography and geographic location accentuate the hazard that birds represent to aircraft operating into and out of Gibraltar Airport (the Airport).
2. The Airport is sited on an isthmus of land, largely reclaimed from the sea, approximately 450m to the north of the Rock of Gibraltar, a substantial geographic feature, which provides nesting opportunities to birds. In particular, large numbers of Yellow Legged Herring Gull nest in the area and they are involved in the majority of bird strikes at the Airport.
3. The Strait of Gibraltar, being the shortest distance of water between Europe and North Africa is also used as a migration route for many species of birds including large raptors.

Policy Statement

4. Recognising that bird strikes are a significant aviation safety risk and that the specific hazard posed by birds at the Airport requires careful management, the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) will work to support all stakeholders in managing this risk.

Policy

5. Bird management at the Airport is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), which provides the service through a contractor. The monitoring of the continued effectiveness of those services is achieved through reporting and annual oversight activity contracted by the MoD. The Civil Air Terminal plays a full part in the Airport bird management plan and is supported, where required, by the DCA.
6. Bird management off-Airport within Gibraltar is managed by the Department of the Environment and to a lesser extent by the Development and Planning Commission. The DCA will support and provide advice to these Departments. In addition, the DCA will ensure communication is effective between all Government of Gibraltar Departments and the Airport with respect to the control of bird activity.
7. Any opportunity to influence and support bird management controls not only in Gibraltar, but also in the wider area adjacent to the Territory, will be explored.