

2026 No. 959

CIVIL AVIATION

**The Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Blackpool
Illuminations) Regulations 2026**

Made - - - - *2nd September 2026*

Coming into force - - *4th September 2026*

The Secretary of State has decided that it is necessary in the public interest to restrict the flying of unmanned aircraft in the area specified in regulation 3(1) by reason of the intending gathering there of a large number of persons.

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by article 239 of the Air Navigation Order 2016^(a).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Blackpool Illuminations) Regulations 2026 and they come into force on 4th September 2026.

Interpretation

2. The times referred to in regulation 3(1) are Co-ordinated Universal Time^(b).

Restricted airspace

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), during the period beginning with 1400 hours and ending with 2259 hours on 4th September 2026 no unmanned aircraft is to fly below 1,100 feet above mean sea level within the area bounded by straight lines joining successively the following points—

- (a) 534828N 0030252W,
- (b) 534828N 0030352W,
- (c) 534920N 0030352W,
- (d) 534920N 0030255W, and
- (e) 534828N 0030252W.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any unmanned aircraft flying in accordance with a permission issued by the Lancashire Police Drone Team.

(a) S.I. 2016/765, amended by S.I. 2024/990; there are other amending instruments but none is relevant.
(b) Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) is one hour behind British Summer Time (BST).

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

2nd September 2026

Karen L Michaels
Grade 7
Department for Transport

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations impose restrictions on the flying of unmanned aircraft in the vicinity of Blackpool, Lancashire, where the gathering of a large number of persons is due to take place. The Civil Aviation Authority and the Department for Transport agree that it is necessary in the public interest to restrict the flying of unmanned aircraft in that area for reasons of public safety and security.

The times referred to in regulation 3(1) are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) which is one hour behind British Summer Time (BST).

In relation to the permission referred to in regulation 3(2), the Lancashire Police Drone Team may be contacted as notified.

Full details of these Regulations will be promulgated by Briefing Sheet and Notice to Aviation (NOTAM).

The point of contact in the Civil Aviation Authority is Mr Thomas Shainberg, Airspace Regulator, Safety and Airspace Regulation Group, on telephone number 03301 382515.