



Flying Display Season 2025

As the 2025 Display Season closes, we reflect on a year of strong achievements and shared learning. No significant safety trends emerged, a credit to the professionalism of all involved. Flying displays have remained at a steady rate post-COVID, demonstrating resilience and sustained interest across the sector.

There continues to be good engagement across the community, with regular interaction between all stakeholders—including the military and other regulators across the globe—ensuring alignment, transparency, and a shared commitment to Flying Display activity.

Key updates include:

- > **Risk Assessments**

– Flying Display Directors (FDDs) are reminded of their continuing responsibility to mitigate all hazards—both within and beyond the display area—ensuring that risks to secondary spectators and third parties are reduced to a level that is As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and tolerable, as per CAP 403 Appendix A.
- > **Pilot Documentation**

– Pilots are reminded that timeliness and accuracy of paperwork submissions are vital for flying display and emergency planning.
- > **New Tools for DS 26**

- A new online platform enabling FDDs to review pilot Display Authorisations.
 - A more intuitive and streamlined online flying display application form.
- > **Deadlines Matter**

Late applications and amendment requests cannot always be accommodated; please plan ahead to avoid disappointment.

Flying Display and Special Event Applications

Applications	DS 20	DS 21	DS 22	DS 23	DS 24	DS 25
Processed	66	174	226	252	230	211
Issued	59	170	215	242	218	204

*data accurate as of 05 November 2025

6%

increase in Flying Display applications, although supplementary applications experienced a slight reduction.

31%

increase in Initial Display Authorisation applications

75%

of permissions issued by the CAA were granted over 20 days ahead of the event

13%

increase in our service delivery for issuing permissions compared to 2024

Safety and Warning Calls

A clear demonstration that Safety and Warning Calls are firmly embedded into the Flying Display safety management framework.

Year	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Stop	2	0	0	3	2	0
Too Low	20	10	11	18	24	24
Too Close	20	16	25	20	43	47
Terminate	0	3	9	14	4	14

Pre-Display Symposium & FDD Courses Security Clearance Requirement – Defence Academy, Shrivenham

To attend the Pre-Display Symposium or Flying Display Director (FDD) Courses at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham, all participants must now hold Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) clearance as a minimum.

- > If you already hold valid BPSS or MOD security clearance, no further action is required.
- > To request a BPSS application form, contact: ga@caa.co.uk
- > Early submission is strongly advised to avoid delays in processing.



Future Dates

- > **24-25 March 2026**
Pre-Display Symposium, The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Shrivenham.

FDD Revalidation Courses

- > 02 December 2025
- > 01 December 2026
- > 30 November 2027

AFDD Courses

- > 03 December 2025
- > 02 December 2026
- > 01 December 2027

FDD Initial Courses

- > 03-04 December 2025
- > 02-03 December 2026
- > 01-02 December 2027

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