Civil Aviation Authority
Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

Civil Aviation Authority

14 January 2009
FOIA reference: F0000777

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application, received 6 January 2009, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Your Request

" how many passengers in the last three years have been affected on the UK (and, if available, EU) flights by bags falling down from the overhead lockers".

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are pleased to be able to provide the following information:

The CAA's Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme is intended to record reportable occurrences which endangered or which, if not corrected, would have endangered an aircraft, its occupants or any other person. It applies to all UK operated aircraft, anywhere in the world. It should be noted that non-UK airlines are required to report occurrences to their own regulatory authority so it is unusual for the CAA database to include occurrences reported by non-UK airlines.

We have conducted a database search for all reportable occurrences, since 1 January 2006 to date, involving passenger injuries due to objects falling from overhead lockers. We have attached a summary report of all 10 occurrences for your information.The location of the event, where known, is displayed in the summary report. Please note that this data retrieval does not include Air Baltic flights, as they are not a UK airline.

If you are unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach the Freedom of Information Case Manager in writing at:-

Rick Chatfield
FOIA & EIR Case Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR
rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

Should you wish to make further Freedom of Information requests, please use the e-form at http://www.caa.co.uk/foi.

Yours sincerely

Rick Chatfield
FoIA & EIR Case Manager

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.

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Safety Regulation Group
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These records were retrieved from the UK CAA Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) system by a member of the SIDD Department

The MOR system records include information reported to the CAA, information obtained from CAA investigations, and deductions by CAA staff based on the available information. The authenticity of the contents or the absence of errors and omissions cannot be guaranteed. Records in this system commenced on 1 January 1976 coincident with the introduction of Mandatory Occurrence Reporting in the UK, but occurrences reported voluntarily are also included, and no distinction is made between them.

Note: Any data provided from these records are made available on the understanding that they are only to be used for purposes of Flight Safety and must not be used for other purposes.

SUBJECT: PASSENGER INJURIES DUE TO OBJECTS FALLING FROM OVERHEAD LOCKERS

PERIOD : 01 JANUARY 2006 TO DATE

A/C Type :	B737	**Occurrence Number :**	**200810601**
Flight Phase :	Cruise	**Occurrence Date :**	26 Sep 2008
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Murcia
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax Emergency Call	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Passenger suffered head injury when item fell from overhead locker. First aid/oxygen administered. Passenger later passed out. PAN declared. A/c attended by ambulance on arrival.

Precis :

A/C Type :	A319	**Occurrence Number :**	**200712665**
Flight Phase :	Cruise	**Occurrence Date :**	26 Dec 2007
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	En Route
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax Diversion /Return	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Passenger struck on the head and rendered unconscious by a bottle of alcohol that fell from the overhead locker when opened by another passenger. Oxygen administered. Diverted to Geneva.

Precis :

Note: Any data provided from these records are made available on the understanding that they are only to be used for purposes of Flight Safety and must not be used for other purposes.

Doctor on board attended and paramedics met a/c on arrival.

A/C Type :	A319	**Occurrence Number :**	**200708661**
Flight Phase :	Cruise	**Occurrence Date :**	01 Sep 2007
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Passenger struck on head by item falling from overhead locker when opened by cabin attendant in flight. Minor injury.

Precis :

A/C Type :	B757	**Occurrence Number :**	**200707094**
Flight Phase :	Initial Climb	**Occurrence Date :**	27 Jul 2007
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Faro
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Passenger injury. Member of cabin crew opened overhead locker and a 'trolley display metal top' fell onto passenger's head, causing 2cm cut. Ambulance met the aircraft on arrival.

Precis :

A/C Type :	B757	**Occurrence Number :**	**200607879**
Flight Phase :	Descent	**Occurrence Date :**	31 Aug 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Birmingham
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
On opening the overhead stowage, a metal cart top display fell out and struck a passenger who suffered a cut head. Ambulance requested to meet a/c on arrival.

Precis :

A/C Type :	B737	**Occurrence Number :**	**200606275**
Flight Phase :	Cruise	**Occurrence Date :**	09 Jul 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Krakow
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
On opening overhead locker, a bag containing a box of chocolates fell and struck a passenger, causing head injury. Oxygen administered.

Precis :
Passenger complained of breathing difficulties and lost consciousness for a few seconds.

A/C Type :	A321	**Occurrence Number :**	**200604335**
Flight Phase :	Approach	**Occurrence Date :**	24 May 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	London-Heathrow - LHR
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax Emergency Call	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Pax incurred head injury as result of a bag falling from overhead locker. PAN declared. Ambulance attended a/c on arrival.

Precis :

A/C Type :	EMB 145	**Occurrence Number :**	**200602841**
Flight Phase :	Take Off	**Occurrence Date :**	08 Apr 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Bristol International
Events :	A/c Equipment (non-AW) Failure Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
Overhead locker opened on take off. Bag fell out and struck pax on face, causing a small cut. Investigation revealed the locker to be faulty.

Precis :

A/C Type :	B737	**Occurrence Number :**	**200601639**
Flight Phase :	Parked	**Occurrence Date :**	01 Mar 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	Nottingham East Midlands
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
When the overhead locker was opened a laptop computer fell out and struck a passenger who received minor injuries.

Precis :

A/C Type :	A319	**Occurrence Number :**	**200601506**
Flight Phase :	Taxi	**Occurrence Date :**	21 Feb 2006
Classification :	Occurrences	**Location :**	London-Heathrow - LHR
Events :	Aircraft Occupant Injury / Death - Pax	**Location Info :**	

Pretitle :
During taxi-in, one passenger was injured by a briefcase falling from an overhead locker and another became unwell. Ambulances called and both passengers taken to hospital.

Precis :

Number of Records : 10