

16 July 2009
FOIA reference: F0000864

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application, of 30 June 2009, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority.

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are able to provide the following information. We have repeated each of your questions for ease of reference.

1. How many incidents of birdstrikes has the CAA recorded in 2009? Can the organization please provide figures for 2005/2006/2007/2008.

The total number of recorded birdstrikes in the UK for the periods you have requested is published on the CAA Internet pages:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/375/srg_asd_ukbirdstrikes_2004-2009.pdf

2. Could the CAA please provide details of birdstrikes which have occurred since January 1 2009. In each case could the CAA provide the date of the incident and state what kind and how many birds were involved. Can you distinguish what kind of plane was involved. For instance was it a military jet, a light aircraft or a passenger plane. Could you please specify the model and class of plane involved. In each case can you explain what were the implications for the plane. Did the aircraft suffer any damage? Was it required to change course and or land?

The CAA runs and administers an [on-line birdstrike reporting scheme](#) which is intended to record birdstrikes in UK airspace, regardless of whether damage was caused to the aircraft. This means any incident in flight in which there was reason to believe that the aircraft has been in collision with one or more birds.

We have searched our database for all birdstrikes that have been submitted to the CAA, which have occurred in all locations within the United Kingdom from 01 January 2009 to 30 June 2009 inclusive. All of the information you have requested is contained within the spreadsheet (as an attachment to this email); however, while the database records the aircraft type it does not record whether the flight was for military or civilian purposes. The vast majority of the birdstrikes recorded by the CAA however are to civilian aircraft.

The figures for the numbers of birds struck are reported using a drop-down menu which features the following choices: unknown; 1; 2-10; 11-100. You will appreciate that it is often difficult for flight crew to assess numbers more accurately in a busy operational environment and in varying meteorological conditions.

Civil Aviation Authority

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3. Since January (sic) 1 2009 has the CAA carried out any research into the prevalence of and or causes of birdstrikes and or its associated problems. If so can it please provide copies of this research.

The CAA provides stakeholders with birdstrike data and broad trend analysis on an annual and monthly basis via statistics published on the [CAA website](#); aerodromes and aircraft operators may also request specific information pertaining to their own operation. This data is discussed with industry at the annual [UK Birdstrike Committee Meeting](#) hosted by the CAA.

The CAA has not carried out specific additional research into the prevalence of and or causes of birdstrikes since 1 January 2009 but we are engaged with National Aviation Administrations and Aviation Safety Agencies around the world with regard to new birdstrike avoidance initiatives, developments and technologies that are being trialled and deployed to address and reduce the birdstrike threat.

4. Since January 1 2009 has the CAA produced and or issued any general advice for pilots, airlines, airports and other interested parties which is designed to minimise the incidents birdstrikes and the associated damage. Could it please provide copies of this advice.

The CAA publishes information for stakeholders about the risks posed by birds and birdstrikes on an ongoing basis and as the need arises. In addition to the information described in the response to Question3, examples include the following:

- CAP 772 Birdstrike Risk Management for Aerodromes, which was last updated in September 2008.
 - <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP772.pdf>
- CAA document “Large Flocking Birds – an International Conflict Between Conservation and Air Safety” provides information on the increasing threat of large flocking birds.
 - http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/1437/srg_acp_00018-01-030303.pdf
- Aeronautical Information Circulars are published by National Air Traffic Services (NATS) on behalf of the CAA and contain aeronautical information for safety and operational use by civil aviation stakeholders:
 - 66/2008 - Reporting Of Birdstrikes
 - 57/2007 - Birdstrike Activity and Avoidance of Birdstrike Risk
 - 28/2004 - Operational Considerations in the Event of Multiple Birdstrikes to Multiple Engine Aeroplanes
- CAA Paper “The Completeness and accuracy of Birdstrike Reporting” was commissioned to assist the CAA in assessing whether any action is required to improve reporting and to identify where any such action should be targeted. Recommendations of this research have been reflected in CAP772.
 - http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/2006_05.pdf

The CAA has not found it necessary to publish new information since 1 January 2009.

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 the address provided on the following page.

Rick Chatfield
FOIA & EIR Case Manager
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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.