

Civil Aviation Authority
Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

2 September 2010
FOIA reference: F0001030

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 5 August 2010, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request was for a copy of a report regarding an incident referred to in a recent article on the BBC website.

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are pleased to be able to attach the information requested.

The house number of the reporter has been removed from the report since its disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles specified in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and it is therefore exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. The name of the reporter, and the name of the street where they live, have not been removed as this information is already in the public domain.

A copy of this exemption is enclosed.

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR

mark.stevens@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:-

Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR www.caa.co.uk
Telephone 01293 768512 rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk

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.

Freedom of Information Act : Section 40

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if-

- (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
- (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.

The first condition is-

(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene-

- (i) any of the data protection principles, or
- (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and

(b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data).

The duty to confirm or deny-

(a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and

- (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either-
- (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 or would do so if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or
 - (ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject's right to be informed whether personal data being processed).

In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24th October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 1998 shall be disregarded.

In this section-

"the data protection principles" means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;

"data subject" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;

"personal data" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.

Investigation of the flight profile of an aircraft landing at Belfast City Airport on the 8th June 2010 at 21:06.

Details of Incident

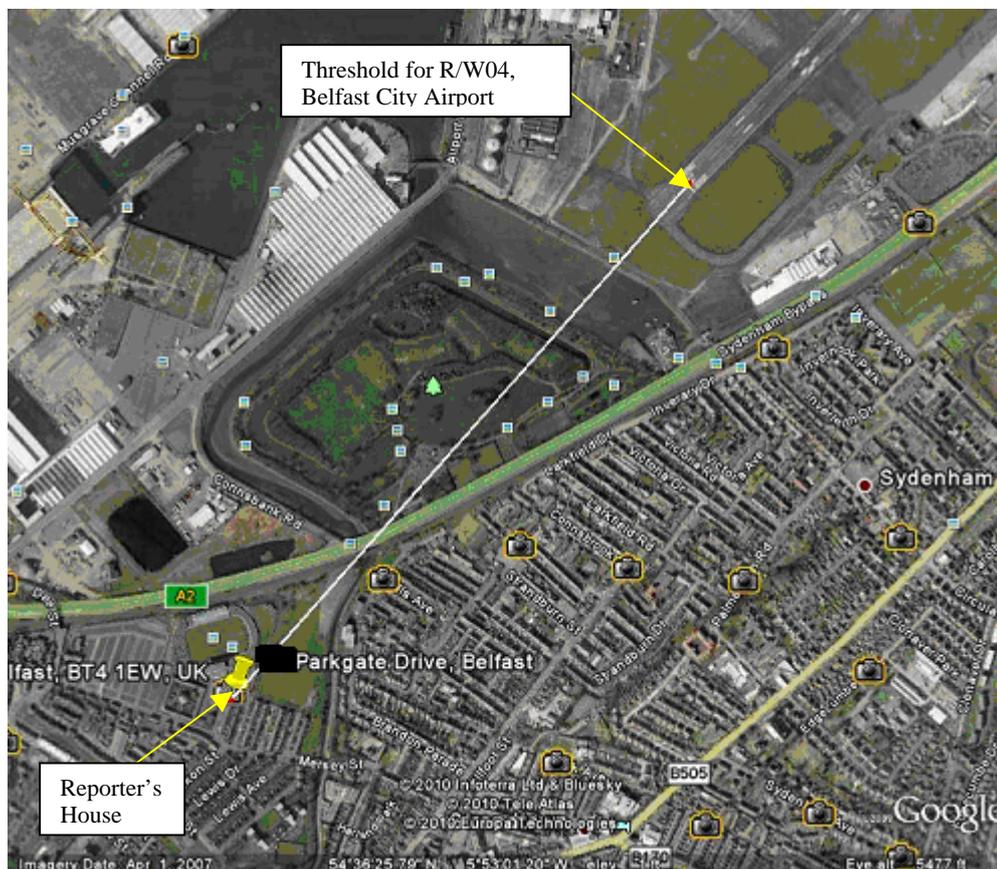
Note: The reported time of this occurrence was given as 22:05 BST, for the purpose of this report, all times are referenced to UTC.

The reporter Mr D Melrose stated that on the 8th June 2010 at 21:05 UTC whilst exiting his house became aware of an aircraft overhead which was coming in to land at Belfast City Airport. Although accustomed to these aircraft overhead, on this occasion it appeared louder than they normally are, causing him to look up at the aircraft, to which he also believed to be lower than normal. At which time, the reporter heard a rumble from the roof area of his house and on looking saw what seemed like the roof lift and drop again, resulting in several roof tiles falling away to the ground. The reporter tried to move out of the way of the falling tiles, however, one tile caught him on top of his head causing some injury.

Location of reporter's house

The location of the reporter's house was calculated to be 0.71 Nautical Miles (NM) from the Threshold of Runway 04, this being the runway in use at the time. The reporter's house is displaced to the right of the extended centre line of R/W04 by approximately 89 meters. The position of the report's location in relation to the airport and approach for R/W04, is shown in fig 1 below. The DME HBD is zero ranged to THR RWY 04, as detailed in the approach procedure, therefore the measurement to reporter's location taken from the runway threshold.

(Fig 1) Location of ■ Parkgate Drive, BT4 1EW, relative to the threshold for R/W04 at Belfast City Airport.



Investigation

The above incident was assigned to ATSI Engineering to investigate the flight profiles of aircraft on approach to Belfast City Airport, at the time of the occurrence. Contact was made with Air Traffic Control at Belfast City Airport to obtain data and information on aircraft movements, the following data was requested:

- Aircraft Movements Log.
- MET Data
- Radar recordings

This occurrence was discussed with representatives at Belfast City Airport. The airport advised that an investigation had been carried out using data listed above and data from the noise track monitoring system was also analysed; in addition the Captain of the aircraft in question was contacted, who reported nothing unusual was detected about the approach procedure.

Aircraft Movements

The reported time of the occurrence was 21:05 UTC, from the Aircraft movement log it can be shown that the only arrival consistent with the time of the occurrence, was a flight operated by Ryanair which touched down at 21:06 UTC.

Time (UTC)	Call sign	A/C Reg	A/C type	From	To
20:59	BMA6XF	G-DBCE	A319	Belfast City	Heathrow
21:06	RYR86FB	EI-DYO	B738	Bristol Lulgate	Belfast City
21:08	EZY196	G-EZAN	A319	Belfast City	Luton

The aircraft movements directly before and after the reported time of the occurrence were departures.

It has been confirmed by the Flight Safety Manager at Ryan Air, that this aircraft type (B738) has been operating from Belfast City Airport since October 2007.

The UK AIP AD 2-EGAC-1-6, EGAC AD 2.20 Item 6 states: runway 22 is the preferred landing runway and runway 04 is the preferred take off runway. This is achieved in 80% of aircraft movements.

MET Data

The MET data was recorded at 20/50 minutes past the hour. The recorded data before and after the event closest to the reported time are given below.

Time (UTC)	Wind Direction (Degrees)	Wind Speed (Knots)	Visibility (Meters)	Weather	Cloud_1	Cloud_2	Temp C	QNH
20:50	010	13	9000	-RADZ	SCT006	BKN008	13/12	1003
21:20	010	11	9000	-RADZ	SCT006	BKN008	13/12	1004

-RADZ = Light Rain and Drizzle

SCT006 = Scattered at 600ft

BKN008 = Broken at 800ft

QNH = Barometric air pressure above mean Sea level

Radar recording

The recorded radar data provided by ATC at Belfast City Airport covered the time period from 20:55 to 21:10 UTC. On viewing the radar replay, the only aircraft to make an approach and land at Belfast City Airport during this time was the flight operated by Ryanair (RZR86FB) a Boeing 737-800 (B738) aircraft.

Conclusion

From the analysis of the data supplied and information gained from discussion with ATC at Belfast City Airport, demonstrated that the aircraft in question, Ryanair (RZR86FB), made an approach and landing at Belfast City Airport in accordance with the Localiser/DME Approach procedure for R/W04, as published in UK AIP (AD 2-EGAC-8-1).

The UK AIP states that runway 22 is the preferred landing runway, which is achieved in 80% of total aircraft movements.

The aircraft type (B738) involved in this occurrence has been operating from Belfast City by Ryan Air since October 2007.

From the MORS Database, only two incidents have been reported to the CAA Safety Data Department, this event being one of the two reported.

Therefore the findings of this investigation, given the evidence available would suggest that occurrences of this nature to be rare.