

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

6 April 2011
FOIA reference: F0001142

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 4 April 2011, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

“With regard to my Previous request, FOIA ref: F0001097, relating to the Serious Incident involving a Hiller Helicopter during the War & Peace show at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood in 2010, being investigated by the CAA, and would the report be available for public viewing?”

As the criminal investigation & prosecution has now been concluded please could you under the Freedom of Information Act provide the full report on the incident”.

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, with regard to your request for ‘the full report’, we can confirm that CAA does not have such a document. However, we provide herewith a summary of the case based upon information given in open court.

On 24 March 2011, at Sevenoaks Magistrates’ Court, Glynn Williams pleaded guilty to negligently causing an aircraft to endanger persons or property (Article 139, Air Navigation Order 2009). The defendant had taken-off in his Hiller UH-12C helicopter at the conclusion of a military re-enactment festival on 25 July 2010. The helicopter was in close proximity to un-marshalled people, tents and vehicles. The helicopter suffered a partial loss of power on take-off. Having touched down briefly, the defendant attempted a further take-off. The helicopter again suffered a partial power loss but remained airborne at a low level. Shortly thereafter full power was restored and the helicopter was able to climb away from the site. Dust and debris was created by the rotor downwash. People present were frightened for their safety and thought that the helicopter was going to crash. The Magistrates fined Mr Williams £2,500 and ordered to him to pay costs of £550.

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

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:-

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.