

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

2 September 2011
FOIA reference: F0001199

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 16 August 2011, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

“How many people were had their pilot's licence revoked after a request by law enforcement (e.g. SOCA, police, Border Agency, HMRC etc) in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11”.

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 provide the information below.

The CAA does not revoke and has not revoked licences at the request of law enforcement agencies.

The Air Navigation Order obliges the CAA to be satisfied that UK-licensed pilots are and remain competent, qualified and fit persons to exercise the privileges of their licences. If the CAA becomes aware of information from any source (which may or may not be a law enforcement agency) of a nature that leads it to conclude that it can no longer be satisfied with respect to competence, qualification or fitness, then the CAA may vary, suspend or revoke the particular licence.

Convictions for criminal offences may cast doubt on whether a licence holder is a fit person to hold a licence, but the CAA must make its own determination of fitness on the basis of any information made available or that it obtains through investigations. Law enforcement agencies may suggest to the CAA that a person is not fit to hold a licence, but the determination of fitness must be made by the CAA before any licensing action is taken.

Where the CAA has cause to doubt the competence, qualification or fitness of a person to continue to exercise the privileges of a licence the most likely action is provisional or substantive suspension of the privileges (not revocation) until the CAA can again be satisfied in these respects. Where a licence is revoked on grounds of not being a fit person, this will most commonly take place because the licence holder has demonstrated a propensity not to comply with rules and regulations through committing a series of acts over a period, which may or may not involve actual or alleged criminal acts.

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

Where there are associated criminal convictions these will provide certainty to the CAA that the pertinent incidents took place and so may assist the CAA in its deliberations. Requests or suggestions from law enforcement agencies and statements made by judges in associated legal proceedings will be taken into account by the CAA, but the CAA does not revoke licences at the request of others.

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.