

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

27 September 2011
FOIA reference: F0001221

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 19 September 2011, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"I understand that a major military operation codenamed Photoflash took place in the early 1970s (circa 23/01/74 in the North Wales area). Could you please forward me copies of all documentation that you have available regarding this subject which you hold in any form, such as paper and electronic records, photographs, correspondence, logs or any other data pertaining to this particular operation and any other related exercises that took place at this time.

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are able to provide the following response.

The CAA can confirm that it does not hold the information you have requested.

As the information you have requested involved a military operation it would be very unlikely that the CAA would be informed of this type of incident as we regulate civilian aircraft operators.

May we suggest (if you have not already done so) that you contact the Ministry of Defence (MOD), as they may be able to assist you further with your request.

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

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

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.