

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

23 May 2012
FOIA reference: F0001326

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application dated 28 April 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

1. *“Please detail the operating hours of each airport in Northern Ireland, specifically, latest permitted (i) departure (ii) arrival times of all (a) local (b) regional (c) UK and Ireland (d) international flights.”*
2. *“Please detail any domestic or international flights which pass over (i) Belfast (ii) other parts of Northern Ireland between the hours of 10pm and 6am, per day of week, including airport of departure destination airport and airline carrier.”*

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are able to provide the information below.

1. Operating hours for airports in Northern Ireland are published in the UK Aeronautical Information Publication (UK AIP), which can be accessed via the NATS Aeronautical Information Service website:

http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=6&Itemid=13.html

Further restrictions on airport arrivals/departures may have been applied by Local Planning Authorities through Section 106 agreements as part of the planning process but will not, necessarily, be specifically published in the UK AIP. You are, therefore, advised to contact the relevant Local Planning Authority or the airport concerned; the CAA does not hold this information

2. Whilst the CAA retains data on the departure and arrival points of civil air transport flights, it does not monitor flight paths of individual aircraft movements. Consequently, the CAA does not hold information on the specific flights that overfly Northern Ireland.

Details of overflights may be held by NATS, the UK's en-route Air Navigation Service Provider; however, NATS is a private company and not bound by the FOIA but still may be able to assist you.

NATS' contact details are as follows:

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

Head of External Communications
NATS
4000 Parkway
Whiteley
Fareham
Hants
PO15 7FL

The CAA is able to provide the number of flights to/from Belfast City, Belfast International & Londonderry airports by airline, day of the week and time-bands; however, please note that there is a charge for this information as permitted under Section 21(2)(a) of the FOIA. A copy of this exemption is enclosed.

Further information on our data charges and fields available can be accessed via the link below.

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1279&pagetype=90&pageid=9537>

If you wish to purchase this information you can do so by applying to the following address:

Regulatory Policy Group
K4
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6TE

Please note that whilst aircraft originating or terminating at airports in Northern Ireland will pass over local areas, the CAA does not hold details of the specific routings taken. The Arrival/departure procedures associated with airports in Northern Ireland can be accessed via the UK AIP at the above URL. Further scheduling information can be found on the relevant airport websites.

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.

Freedom of Information Act: Section 21

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)-

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.