Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

17 July 2012
FOIA reference: F0001351

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 3 July 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

> *"Can you tell me how many prosecutions the CAA has made against helicopters for low flying in both congested and uncongested areas separately.*
>
> *I would like to know the total number of successful and unsuccessful prosecutions.*
>
> *Where the prosecution was unsuccessful I would like to know the reasons why it was unsuccessful.*
>
> *Where the prosecution was successful I would like to know the punishment".*

Our response:

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

The CAA has prosecuted on four occasions between dates 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2012. Details of these prosecutions can be found on the attached table.

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.

PROSECUTIONS ON LOW FLYING HELICOPTERS FROM 01/04/2009 TO 31/03/2012

Offence	Description	Helicopter Type	Location	Court	Plea	Fine	Costs
Rule 5(3)(b), RAR 2007	Low Flying	Robinson R44 Helicopter	Rothbury, Northumberland	Bedlington Magistrates Court	Acquitted after Trial	N/A	N/A
Rule 5(3)(c), RAR 2007	Low Flying over a Congested Area	AS 355F2 Helicopter	Poole Harbour	Bournemouth Magistrates Court	Guilty	£1500	£522.50
Rule 5(3)(c), RAR 2007	Aircraft Landing in a Congested Area	AS350B Helicopter	Slough, Buckinghamshire	Slough Magistrates Court	Guilty	£1000	£500
Rule 5(3)(b), RAR 2007	Low Flying	Robinson R44 Helicopter	York to London Railway Line	Maidenhead Magistrates Court	Guilty	£1,250	£360