

Date
FOIA reference: F0001392

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 2 September 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a list of instances and reports where UFOs have been reported to your organisation, concerning the region of morocco and north Africa. and any related research studies that have been received and produced regarding such matters.

Could you please supply me with copies of documentation and materials relating to the above that you hold in any form, such as paper and electronic records, including any subsequent emails concerning this subject?"

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's Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme is intended to record reportable occurrences which endangered or which, if not corrected, would have endangered an aircraft, its occupants or any other person. The reporting scheme is not intended to capture information on unidentified flying objects (UFO), but any such sightings are recorded on the database if reported to the CAA by pilots or air traffic controllers. All sightings reported by members of the public are forwarded to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and so will not appear in the CAA's records.

The UFO data is not classified by region (e.g. North Africa) so we have searched by country for any reports where the location of the event has been recorded within Moroccan, Algerian, Libyan or Tunisian airspace of which the CAA do not hold any reports from 01 January 1976 to all processed reports as at 04 September 2012 inclusive.

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
Information Rights and Enquiries Officer

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.