

20 May 2013
FOIA reference: F0001532

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 8 May 2013, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"I would like to know whether there are any regulations or procedures for a person, who is a non UK citizen and non EEA (European Economic Area) citizen, to undergo a government security clearance or certification prior to joining a flying club in the UK and starting flight training towards PPL (Private Pilot Licence).

- 1) If the person already has a permission to work in the UK under a work visa and would like to seek flight training as a hobby and eventually apply for a Private Pilot Licence, would there be any additional procedures / process or restrictions that he/she must undergo prior to start flight training? (In this case, he/she already has a valid permission (Leave to Remain) in the UK and the question is from the perspective of aviation security, crime prevention or anti-terrorism).*
- 2) Are there any restrictions in regards to nationality / citizenship when such a person applies for a Private Pilot Licence (either NPPL or EASA PPL)?*
- 3) Is there a UK equivalent scheme of the United State's Transport Security Administration's AFSP (Alien Flight Student Program), in which a non-US citizen needs a clearance from the US TSA prior to starting flight training? This has been in effect in the US from about 2004. See also www.flightschoolcandidates.gov".*

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.

1. The information you have requested is not held by the CAA. You should direct this question to the UK Border Agency. I have provided a link to their website below.
2. There are no restrictions regarding the nationality of applicants for a Private Pilot's Licence (PPL).
3. The information you have requested is not held by the CAA. You should direct this question to the UK Border Agency.

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

UK Border Agency contact:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/>

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.