

10 February 2014
FOIA reference: F0001805

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 29 January 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"I would like to request the following through freedom of information:

For each of the following years: 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 2013/14, I would like to know how many passenger jets have been targeted by laser pens while landing at Glasgow and Prestwick Airports.

Also:

- 1) a breakdown for how many for each Airport – Glasgow and Prestwick*
- 2) How many people roughly were on each flight"*

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.

Incident reports are provided to the CAA under the terms of the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) scheme, as described under Article 226 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO). Each report made is reviewed and, where appropriate, further investigation carried out and action taken.

We have searched the CAA MOR database for all laser pen attacks reported for commercial air transport aircraft regardless of nationality reported either during the approach or landing phase into Prestwick or Glasgow airports and provided an excel spreadsheet.

The CAA is not hold details of the number of passengers on each aircraft as this information is not collected.

For more information about the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting scheme, please refer to CAP382 which can be found at www.caa.co.uk/cap382.

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

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.

Freedom of Information Act: Section 44

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it-

- (a) is prohibited by or under any enactment,
- (b) is incompatible with any Community obligation, or
- (c) would constitute or be punishable as a contempt of court.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) fall within any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1).

Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act is such a statutory prohibition. Accordingly, the obligations of the CAA to comply with Section 23 are unaffected by the Freedom of Information Act.

Under Section 23, information supplied to the CAA in connection with its regulatory functions and which relates to a particular individual or organisation must not be disclosed by the CAA unless such disclosure is authorised by one of the exceptions contained in Section 23 itself.

Airport	Year	Number of Laser Attacks
Glasgow	2009	14
Glasgow	2010	26
Glasgow	2011	44
Glasgow	2012	91
Glasgow	2013	88
Glasgow	2014	3 (all processed reports as at 5 February 2014)
Prestwick	2009	0
Prestwick	2010	3
Prestwick	2011	0
Prestwick	2012	1
Prestwick	2013	1
Prestwick	2014	0 (all processed reports as at 5 February 2014)