

10 February 2014  
FOIA reference: F0001809

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 1 February 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

- 1) According to CAA records, how many aircraft pilots or other aircraft staff have been found to be drunk, or over the alcohol limit, while on board a flight, or immediately before or afterwards? Please break this down by year, for 2011, 2012 and 2013.*
- 2) Of the above, how many people received disciplinary action for being drunk? Again, please break this down by year, for 2011, 2012 and 2013”.*

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.

A pilot attempting to fly while under the influence of alcohol is a major threat to flight safety and performing an aviation function at a time when ability to perform the function is impaired because of drink or drugs is an offence under the Railways & Transport Safety Act 2003. At UK airports the police have powers to test pilots for drink or illegal drugs where there is reasonable suspicion. As this legislation is enforced by the police, the CAA does not hold the information you have requested.

However, 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). Under the MOR scheme, a reportable occurrence is any incident which endangers or which, if not corrected, would endanger an aircraft, its occupants or any other person. Each report made is reviewed and, where appropriate, further investigation carried out and action taken.

We have therefore carried out a search of the CAA MOR database for reports of any commercial flight crew or cabin crew, regardless of the nationality of aircraft involved, in

**Civil Aviation Authority**

Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)  
Telephone 01293 768512 [rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk](mailto:rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk)

which the report submitted infers that persons were confirmed as over the legal limit for alcohol whilst on board, preparing for flight, or immediately after flight for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013.

The CAA holds one such report in 2013 involving a pilot operating a non-UK aircraft.

The CAA does not hold information on any disciplinary action as this would be a matter for the police and/or their employers.

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](mailto: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](http://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.