

16 June 2014  
FOIA reference: E0001932

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 16 May 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

*“Under the Environmental Information Regulations, please can you send me information (including emails) sent and received by the Civil Aviation Authority in connection with the impact of change to the environment expected as a result of the new Heathrow trial RNAV1 Easterly SID routes announced in AIP Supplement 19/2014 (15th May 2014) and the degree of proportionate consultation determined by the CAA that was deemed necessary before granting approval for the trial.”*

Our response:

Having considered your request in line with the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the information requested is not held by the CAA as we are still awaiting submission of the necessary documents from Heathrow Airport. It is important to note that the trial has not yet been approved by the CAA. The trial, if approved, it will not commence until 28 July 2014.

The information published in the AIP Supplement to which you refer was not an approval, but information that is necessary for the programming of aircraft Flight Management Systems (on-board computers). We need to give the industry sufficient time to programme these systems in advance of any trial. Should the trial not be approved, the information will simply not be used. So it is important to realise that the AIP information does not constitute a CAA approval.

Turning to the point of impact on the change to the environment as a result of the trial, the CAA follows guidance as published in the [“Guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority on Environmental Objectives Relating to the Exercise of its Air Navigation Functions”](#).

*“9.9: Due to the short term nature of temporary airspace changes and airspace trials, it will usually not be necessary or appropriate for the airspace change sponsor to consult on their proposals or to undertake the airspace change approval process. However, the likely impact of the proposed change on the environment should be considered by the sponsor prior to implementation and this information used to help the CAA to determine whether a proportionate consultation is required”.*

**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 [foirequests@caa.co.uk](mailto:foirequests@caa.co.uk)

The CAA will assess this by ensuring that Heathrow Airport conducts the trial in accordance with a best practice trial process and by ensuring that the trial conforms to the relevant safety requirements. With regards to environmental matters specifically, we are aware that Heathrow Airport have fully engaged their Flight Operations Committee (representing the airlines) and Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN). We consider this is representative of Airport Consultative Committees.

In addition we have accompanied Heathrow Airport at two recent meetings with the Department for Transport (DfT) on 31 March 2014 and 29 April 2014, where the government was briefed on the trial routes, consultation and the potential impacts of the routes. The DfT assured Heathrow Airport and the CAA that Ministers would be briefed accordingly.

The CAA has no notes of these meetings.

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.