

10 April 2014
FOIA reference: F0001874

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 14 March 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

“currently researching damage/injury by wake vortices on the ground. I am looking for information about incidents. In Germany this issue came up because of a new runway at the Frankfurt airport - and there is astonishingly close to no information available publicly.

Do you have a database? If yes, can I access it online or by other methods?

Are these incidents (like roof damage) recorded and collected systematically by CAA?

*If not, do you know of any injuries to persons at all? Cases of damage to e.g. buildings?
Are there airports with a track record?*

Who else should I contact?”

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). 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, searched the UK CAA database for all occurrences that have involved wake turbulence and allegedly causing damage on the ground during the period 1 January 2011 to all processed reports as at 24 March 2014, regardless of location or aircraft nationality, and provided an excel summary of those reports. We have, however, removed identifying information from these reports as this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR www.caa.co.uk
Telephone 01293 768512 foirequests@caa.co.uk

Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA provides that information is exempt if its disclosure is prohibited by, or under, any enactment. Under Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, information which relates to a particular person (which includes a company or organisation) and has been supplied to the CAA pursuant to an Air Navigation Order (ANO) is prohibited from disclosure, (a copy of this exemption can be found enclosed).

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

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.

File number	UTC date	Location of occ	Headline	Narrative text
201108626	22/07/2011	Luton (LUT)	Alleged wake vortex damage to private property.	CAA Closure: All a/c that made an approach and landed at Luton Airport within the specified times did so in accordance with published procedures.
201110030	25/08/2011	Glasgow	Approximately 20 tiles blown off or dislodged from house roof. No reported injuries.	House unoccupied at the time of the event. Wake vortex suspected. □ CAA Closure: Three a/c that made an approach did so in accordance with published procedures. Flight safety was maintained.
201208609	21/07/2012	Luton (LUT)	Roof of house damaged by suspected wake vortex event.	CAA Closure: Initially reported as an icefall. Four a/c identified as being in the vicinity, belonging to three different operators, all of which have checked their a/c's technical records and confirmed that no faults were apparent that could have contributed to this incident. A subsequent wake vortex investigation by the CAA was conducted. From the analysis of the data supplied, it is shown that for all a/c making an approach on Runway 08 within the time period 00:00 to 00:31 BST, the descent profile and altitude of the aircraft, as they passed the reporter's location, is consistent with a normal approach path, with no adverse or unusual deviations noted.
201208615	26/07/2012	London-Heathrow - LHR	A319 on very short finals R/W27R encountered wake turbulence from departing company B777. Roll of 15deg, pitch 5deg. ATC informed.	Right wing drop and 'bunt' up of a/c occurred between 50-100R. An A319 on short final reported a possible wake turbulence event resulting from a departing B777 and considered the most likely cause as turbulence created from the heavy departing a/c. The crew reported the surface wind as 260/05. The AIP warns about possible building induced turbulence in strong southerly/south-westerly winds when landing on R/W27R. The wind was relatively light and it was not possible to determine the effects of the turbulence created by the departing B777 as the A319 approached short final. □ CAA Closure: This was considered to be a random occurrence and no further investigation is considered appropriate at this time.
201214397	02/11/2012	Marden	A/c inadvertently landed at incorrect location. Downwash reportedly caused minor injury and some third party property damage.	Three POB, no injuries. One person on the ground (infant) reported to have suffered a small bump on the head.