

3 June 2014
FOIA reference: F0001916

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 6 May 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

- 1) *“The number of recreational private pilot's licences (including NPPL, PPL (A), and JAR PPL) there are in the UK*
- 2) *The number of hours flown on average by holders of such licences per year (as reported in medical examination returns for example”.*

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are able to provide the information below.

1. The CAA assesses whether a pilot is active by checking the validity of a medical certificate on our database. We have, therefore, only counted the number of pilots that meet this criteria.

Please note that there are pilots who use a Declaration of Health (DVLA 1 or 2) in lieu of an EASA Medical Certificate. The CAA does not record this information on our database, as there is no requirement for the pilot or the medical examiner to notify us of this. Therefore, these pilots are not included in the figures provided.

Table one (below) contains the total number of licences issued and the licence type. However, it should be noted that individuals may hold more than one type of licence. We have, therefore, also provided table two, which shows the number of individuals that hold a licence.

Table one:

Licence	Total
EASA LAPL(A)	151
EASA PPL(A)	13127
EASA LAPL(H)	3
EASA PPL(H)	1866
EASA LAPL(S)	38
EASA SPL	120
UK NPPL(A)	541
UK PPL(A)	13985
UK PPL(M)	29
UK PPL(SLMG)	10
UK PPL(BA)	98
UK PPL(G)	74
UK PPL(H)	927
Licences	30969

Table two:

Licence	Total
PPL(A)	18250
LAPL(A)/NPPL(A)	310
PPL(M)	29
PPL(SLMG)	10
PPL(H)	2293
LAPL(H)/NPPL(H)	2
PPL(BA)	98
PPL(G)	74
LAPL(S)	38
SPL	120
Individuals	21224

2. The CAA does not hold a record of the average hours flown by all pilots over a year, as a medical is not necessarily undertaken on a yearly basis. When a medical is undertaken the hours flown are not always provided by the individuals and there is no requirement to do so. Therefore, the data that is held on our database is not validated or recorded on each medical. This makes the information held inconsistent. It is, therefore, not possible to provide the information requested.

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.