

16 July 2014
FOIA reference: F0001971

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 19 June 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

“Can you tell me the number of Hard Landings reported by aircraft using:

*Bristol International
Cardiff International
Exeter International
Heathrow International
Birmingham International*

Since January 1st 2010 until June 18th 2014

Can you also tell me which of these airport's runways are fully CAP 168 compliant under CAA Licencing of Aerodromes guidelines”.

Our response:

Having considered 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.

If an aircraft suffers a heavy/hard landing – a landing deemed to require a ‘heavy landing check’ - this would be such an occurrence which should be reported under the scheme.

We have, therefore, searched the UK CAA database for all occurrences that have involved a heavy/hard/firm landing at the relevant airports regardless of aircraft nationality during the period 1 January 2010 to all processed reports as at 25 June 2014. To provide some

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

context, we have also provided the total number of aircraft movements for each airport between 1 January 2010 and 31 May 2014.

Airport	Number of reports	Total aircraft movements
Bristol	10	286,091
Cardiff	3	116,160
Exeter	5	138,959
Heathrow	73	2,075,903
Birmingham	14	413,459

In relation to your request regarding which of these airports' runways are fully CAP 168 compliant under CAA Licensing of Aerodromes guidelines, as explained in our previous responses information regarding variations to CAP 168 requirements are provided to the CAA as part of our regulatory duties under Article 211 of the ANO, and under Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 information which relates to a particular individual or organisation, and has been supplied to the CAA pursuant to an ANO, is prohibited from disclosure.

Section 44 (1) (a) of the FOIA provides that information is exempt if its disclosure is prohibited by, or under, any enactment, and Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act is such a statutory prohibition (a copy of this exemption can be found below).

However, we can confirm that there are no significant licensing variations that might impact on hard landings recorded against the runways at Cardiff, Exeter, Heathrow or Birmingham. We have advised you of a non-compliance concerning Bristol's runway in our previous response to you (Ref F0001897). It is worth noting that the Air Accidents Investigation Branch did not identify the runway non-compliance at Bristol as being a causal factor in the Boeing 767 hard landing you referred to in your previous request. Hard landings can be caused by number of factors, including wind direction, wind shear, aircraft and pilot performance.

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).