

[REDACTED]

Date: 25 March 2024
Reference: F0006748

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 6 March 2024 for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

CAP 670 Part B Section 4 Paragraph GEN01.13 states:

"The CAA has been made aware of research that indicates the possibility of wind turbines adversely affecting the quality of radio communication between air traffic controllers and aircraft under their control. Further work is being undertaken to establish the extent, likelihood and severity of the problem and until further information is available, issues concerning wind turbines and VHF communications should be dealt with on a case by case basis."

Please provide copies of, or links to:

- (a) the research that the CAA has been made aware of; and*
- (b) the reports of any further work on this topic.*

It is noted the original request was sent by the applicant on the 23 January 2024, however the original request as marked as 'quarantined' – for unknown reasons – and not delivered. I should again like to take this opportunity to apologise for any delay this may have caused.

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the CAA holds information within scope of the above enquiry; if I may I shall address each of your points in turn:

(a) the research that the CAA has been made aware of

The CAA developed these lines following a report that we were aware of, originally provided to Ofcom, a copy of this report can be found at the following link:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/62727/windfarm_report.pdf

(b) the reports of any further work on this topic.

It is the CAA's position that the further work referenced relates to NATS, in partnership with QinetiQ, who were planning, is it the CAA's understanding, research into the interaction of V/UHF ATC communications and wind turbines.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Email: foi.requests@caa.co.uk

This resulted in the report on the methodology for interference prediction guidelines that was shared with us (attached) which, with NATS agreement, we then modified to form the basis of the current content in CAP670 Appendix A to GEN 02.

The text in CAP670 GEN01.13 has remained unchanged as it is the CAA's position further externally-commissioned work is under consideration to take account of the heights of current planned turbines and potential cumulative impacts of multiple developments

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:-

FOI.Requests@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 out below. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at FOI - Freedom of Information (caa.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Information Rights Specialist

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.