



CAA Successful Prosecutions

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Defendant

Barry SCOTT

Brief Description

Barry Scott was the pilot in command of Piper PA-28 aircraft on an evening flight from Blackbushe to Dunkeswell and back. A passenger, who was a private pilot, accompanied Mr Scott on the flight. The outward flight took-off later than planned and took longer than planned to reach Dunkeswell. The return flight took-off after sunset. Blackbushe was not operational after 1800 so there was no RFFS, no lighting and no flight information service. The aircraft was off track as it approached Blackbushe. The passenger suggested diverting to Farnborough but Mr Scott pressed-on. Mr Scott descended the aircraft to 800 feet a.g.l in the Sandhurst area, as if approaching to land, causing the passenger to shout that it was not Blackbushe. The passenger could see National Grid power cables so close to the aircraft that it would have struck them had the undercarriage been down. A local resident, also a pilot, saw the aircraft fly very low over their house, assumed it was in trouble and prepared to call the emergency services. The passenger told Mr Scott to declare a PAN and to go to Farnborough but Mr Scott continued to fly orbits. Ambient lighting from nearby premises identified Blackbushe; the runway was barely visible. The aircraft landed.

Mr Scott pleaded guilty to negligently endangering an aircraft.

Date

28/05/2024

Court

Reading Crown Court

Sentence

Fine £1,500

Defendant

Charles HUDSON

Brief Description

Mr Hudson was the pilot in command of a Folland Gnat aircraft on a flight from/to North Weald. He flew within the Stansted TMZ without operating the aircraft's transponder. He then flew twice within class D controlled airspace, the Stansted CTR, without air traffic control clearance, causing loss of separation with a passenger flight inbound to Stansted. A second inbound aircraft was given avoiding action and broken-off from final approach. A third inbound flight had to be instructed to turn away from final approach and climb, and a fourth inbound aircraft was instructed to orbit and turned away from final approach. As Mr

Hudson approached North Weald, he flew over the village of North Weald Bassett at between 525 and 541 feet a.g.l.

Mr Hudson pleaded guilty to flying within a TMZ without operating a transponder, two offences of flying within class D airspace without air traffic control clearance and one offence of flying over a congested area at a height less than 1,000 feet.

Date

29/08/2024

Court

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court

Sentence

Fine £4,000

Defendant

Gordon OLIVER

Brief Description

Gordon Oliver organised the annual Buttermere Bash event. Previously, permission for a flying display at the event had been applied for and granted by the CAA. In 2024 however, Mr Oliver deliberately did not apply to the CAA for permission and flying displays took place.

Mr Oliver pleaded guilty to organising a flying display without having applied for and obtained CAA permission.

Date

09/01/2025

Court

Carlisle Magistrates' Court

Sentence

Fine £1,675

Defendant

David HOARE

Brief Description

David Hoare was the pilot of a paramotor aircraft which flew at less than 500 feet at West Bay beach, Bridport.

Mr Hoare was convicted of one offence of low flying.

Date

18/02/2025

Court

Weymouth Magistrates' Court

Sentence

Fine £1,500

Defendant

Simon NICHOLLS

Brief Description

Simon Nicholls was the pilot of a Robinson R44 helicopter which flew over congested areas of Worksop.

Mr Nicholls pleaded guilty to two offences of low flying over congested areas.

Date

06/03/2025

Court

Mansfield Magistrates' Court

Sentence

Fine £1,280

Defendant

Christopher HOLLANDS

Brief Description

Christopher Hollands was the pilot in command and pilot monitoring a commercial airline flight from Oslo to Manchester. Mr Hollands did not make radio contact with air traffic control as the flight entered UK airspace and for more than 30 minutes thereafter did not hear repeated radio calls from ATC, other aircraft and the Distress and Diversion cell, causing a security incident. Two RAF Typhoons were launched, intercepted the aircraft and escorted it into Manchester airport, where police attended.

Mr Hollands pleaded guilty to not maintaining continuous air-ground communication watch and establishing two-way communication with the appropriate air traffic control units.

Date

20/03/2025

Court

Manchester Magistrates' Court

Sentence

Fine £4,511