

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 December 2016
Reference: F0003011

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 6 December 2016, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'I wish to ask the following questions under the freedom of information act.

- 1. Who owes the airspace/ flight paths the airlines use, for Heathrow and Gatwick?*
- 2. Do the owners of the airspace profit from the use of it?*
- 3. For Heathrow airport, how much does it cost airlines to use each of the different flight paths departures?*
- 4. For Gatwick airport, how much does it cost airlines to use each of the different flight paths, departures?'*

Our response:

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

Response to questions 1 and 2:

In its simplest terms, airspace is the portion of the atmosphere controlled by a State above its territory and areas over the sea within which a State is contracted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to provide air traffic services. It is an invisible national asset. For air traffic control purposes, airspace can be divided into two main categories; controlled and uncontrolled. Controlled airspace is where air traffic control needs to have positive control over aircraft flying in that airspace to maintain safe separation between them. Uncontrolled airspace is airspace where aircraft are able to fly freely through the airspace without being constrained by instructions in routing or by air traffic control, unless they request a service.

Controlled airspace contains a network of corridors, or airways, which link the busy areas of airspace above major airports. At a lower level, control zones are established around each airport. The CAA is responsible for approving the overall layout of the published airspace structure and any proposed changes to it. We do so in the context of legal requirements

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House Gatwick Airport South Gatwick RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Telephone: 01293 768512. foi.requests@caa.co.uk

which include safety, the environment and the needs of the consumers of aviation services as well as other duties all set out in section 70 of the Transport Act 2000.

Response to questions 3 and 4:

Airlines that use the different flight paths from Heathrow and Gatwick airports pay charges to NATS for its London Approach service and its en-route (Eurocontrol) service. These charges vary according to aircraft weight and distance flown; they are not specific to particular flight paths.

The formulae to determine these charges are in the charges specifications for both London Approach and En-route charges on our website as follows:

[The Civil Aviation Authority \(Navigation services charges\) Specification 2016](#)
[The Civil Aviation Authority \(Eurocontrol charges\) Specification 2016](#)

NATS may be able to give you more information on the charges for particular flights.

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:-

Caroline Chalk
Head of External Information Services
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
Gatwick
RH6 0YR

caroline.chalk@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 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 <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=24>.

Yours sincerely



Rihanne Stephen
Information Rights 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.