

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

17 February 2020  
Reference: F0004660

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 18 January 2020, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities, but not does not oblige a public authority to answer questions. As such, we have only considered the parts of your email which we believe qualify as requests for recorded information in line with the provisions of the FOIA.

Your request and our response:

*Can you please provide me with any of the evidence from the British Parachute Association to suggest that Round canopy, static line parachuting as practiced by HM Armed forces cannot and should not be performed in the UK as an active sport and pastime by ex servicemen or otherwise?*

The CAA has not been provided with any evidence by the British Parachute Association to this effect and therefore does not hold any information in scope of this part of your request.

*Can you please direct me toward any legal precedent that CAA or BPA have pursued to prove a case against round canopy jumping?*

The CAA has not pursued any legal precedent against round canopy jumping and is unaware of any such activity undertaken by the British Parachuting Association. Therefore, we do not hold any information in scope of this part of your request.

*Can you please provide me with evidence from BPA to explain why they have ignored and omitted any mention of Round canopy parachuting in the UK within **CAP 660**?*

*(A document I understand was written by the BPA)*

CAP 660 is produced and published by the CAA and not by the British Parachute Association, therefore, we do not hold any information in scope of this part of your request.

CAP660 does not specify or favour any particular type of parachuting. The CAA regularly reviews its publications and will shortly undertake a review of whether skydiving and round canopy parachuting would be better served by having separate CAPs covering their respective activities.

*Can you provide correspondence on any legitimate concerns shown and demonstrated by BPA and the CAA surrounding "Round canopy" jumps?*

No specific study or analysis has been undertaken by the CAA into round canopy parachuting, and none has been shared by the British Parachuting Association with the CAA. Therefore, we do not hold any information in scope of this part of your request.

*What provision have BPA made for those jumpers who are not interested in skydiving and if they have been omitted is that not prejudicial to persons or clubs wishing to pursue their own interests in commemoration and tribute jumps at UK events and air displays?*

This question should be directed to the British Parachute Association.

*Have the Risk assessments and method statements provided to CAA and BPA by the clubs such as "Pathfinder" proven that they adequately cover the use of Information, instruction, training and supervision the use of suitable equipment, maintenance and procedures required to conduct jumps safely?*

Each risk assessment is reviewed individually as part of the application approval process. If concerns arise with specific applications, including risk assessments, these are raised with the organisation submitting the application. If time permits between the submission of the application and the event(s) being applied for, the CAA will always try to assist organisations in addressing any identified shortfalls, including in the categories identified above. Similarly, where appropriate, the CAA will review and provide comment on an organisation's operating manual with the aim of ensuring that it is able to meet the regulator's requirements. In short, we aim to work constructively with those that we regulate to ensure that they are able to undertake their activity safely and in compliance with the published regulations.

*Can you please show me where in their Risk assessments and method statements there are arguments to prove static line jumping is not as safe as freefall skydiving?*

The CAA does not possess and has not commissioned a specific review of the relative merits of static line and free fall parachute jumping.

*Considering the physics behind static line parachute deployment can BPA prove that this is less safe than their own skydiving systems?*

This question should be directed to the British Parachuting Association.

*Can the BPA persons who made this decision please make themselves known and identify where their "expert " opinion stems from whether that be civilian or military viewpoints?*

This question should be directed to the British Parachuting Association.

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:-

[REDACTED]  
Head of External Information Services  
Civil Aviation Authority  
Aviation House  
Beehive Ring Road  
Crawley  
RH6 0YR

[REDACTED] [@caa.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@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

[REDACTED]

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.