

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: 5 August 2025
Reference: F0007495

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 21 July 2025, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

Please can you provide the total number of single seat hot air balloons (hoppers) which are registered to only one person in the UK. ie this is the only hot air balloon they fly.

Please could you also provide details of concerns raised as part of your consultation on new hot air balloon licensing,

how and where you promoted the consultation,

responses received etc.

Did you write to registered pilots? If so what responses were received.

Finally how many concerns have been raised as part of your proposed changes

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held by the CAA.

Before I respond to the individual elements of your request the following may help your understanding:

The Part-BFCL BPL came into regulation in April 2020, while the UK was a part of the European Union (the BPL is therefore not a "new" licence, and the UK CAA does not have any information relating to any consultation done by EASA regarding this licence). When the UK left the EU, the EU regulations were retained and assimilated into UK law, including aviation regulations and Part-BFCL.

1. Please can you provide the total number of single seat hot air balloons (hoppers) which are registered to only one person in the UK. ie this is the only hot air balloon they fly.

11 single seat hot air balloons are registered whereby the registered owner is not recorded as an owner of any other hot air balloons.

2. Please could you also provide details of concerns raised as part of your consultation on new hot air balloon licensing,

3. how and where you promoted the consultation, responses received etc.

The General Aviation Licensing and Training Simplification (L&TS) Project included the balloon licences (PPL(BA), CPL(B) and BPL) as a part of its scope. There have been two consultations conducted (Spring 2024 and Spring 2025) with a third currently running, as part of the L&TS project.

All information relating to these, including Comment Response Documents (which details stakeholder feedback), are available on the Consultations area of the CAA website (<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/>).

All CAA consultations are published on this website, and are promoted as news items on the CAA website, and via the Skywise notification service (<https://skywise.caa.co.uk/>). Many of the GA aviation associations, clubs and representative bodies have also published information about these activities.

4. Did you write to registered pilots? If so what responses were received.

The CAA does not contact individual registered pilots about consultations

5. Finally how many concerns have been raised as part of your proposed changes

Please see the (responses to elements 2 and 3). Comment Response Documents are published.

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



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At the CAA we respect agile working so, while it suits me to send this now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

Please consider our environment. Think before printing.

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.
- 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 when necessary consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and if necessary 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.
- An internal review cannot address issues outside of the scope of the original request.
- You, as the applicant, may raise concerns as to why you think the CAA (and any exemptions relied upon) were incorrect in our application of the terms of the FOIA.
- The internal review mechanism should not be used to raise additional further requests for information; this should be done by way of another first stage information request.