

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17 May 2017
EIR Reference: E0003158

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 16 March 2017 and further clarification of 18 April 2017, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'Under the Freedom of Information European Act can you please provide the following:

We would ask for the mapping of Heathrow routing of arrivals and departures over the past years of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 whereby the change in protocol of the runway takes place. We would ask for mapping over the complete area north, east, west and south to cover Gatwick routing day and night.

We would ask for data of aircraft landing whilst the change in protocol takes place at night, at what height they approach the runway and if they use ILS to land, the weather conditions during the change in protocol. We would ask how many times this takes place at night during the above mentioned years.'

Further clarification

'I clarify the FOI request as you seem unsure to what is required.

The change in protocol at Heathrow.

We require to know how many time this takes place i.e. flying against the natural landing wind direction onto a runway at night at Heathrow for the months of August.

We would require details of arrivals mapping of Heathrow flight paths, as well as height and frequency of routing, that includes over Gatwick airspace to the east and west of Gatwick for the month of August 2016.

It is hoped that this makes it clear to what is now required and look forward to the data asap.'

Civil Aviation Authority

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

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

Our response:

Having considered your request in line with the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, we are able to provide the information below.

As you may be aware, Heathrow airport operate a weekly rotation between westerly and easterly night-time arrival operations whenever weather conditions permit. Details of the runway alternation programme for 2017 can be found on the Heathrow website at <http://www.heathrow.com/noise/heathrow-operations/runway-alternation>.

Since the wind direction can have an impact on this pattern, the runway alternation programme specifies a primary runway and a secondary (alternative) runway. The secondary runway is the primary runway approached from the opposite direction.

We have, therefore, interpreted the first part of your request as seeking information on the number of occasions that aircraft landing at night at Heathrow operated on the secondary runway as specified in airport's runway alternation programme for August 2016, and for the same month in previous years. We can confirm that the CAA does not hold this information and therefore, Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR applies. A copy of this exception can be found below.

For your information, Heathrow airport publishes daily operational data on their website at <http://heathrowoperationaldata.com/daily-operational-data/>. This data includes the percentage of easterly or westerly operations for each day (although this information is not broken down by time of day).

In response to the second part of your request, please find attached maps from the Heathrow Noise and Track Keeping (NTK) system that show the flight paths of westerly arrivals (Figure 1) and easterly arrivals (Figure 2) during August 2016. In each diagram, the tracks are colour coded based on the following aircraft heights above the airport: below 3919 feet, 3919-6919 feet, and above 6919 feet.

As you can see from these maps, arrivals that enter either of Heathrow's southern holding stacks (Biggin or Ockham) can pass to the east or west of Gatwick airport. The number of arrivals recorded by the Heathrow NTK system entering each holding stack during August 2016 is also shown on each diagram for reference.

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 requests under the Environmental Information Regulations. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rihanne Stephen'.

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.

Regulation 12 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3) and (9), a public authority may refuse to disclose environmental information requested if—
- (a) an exception to disclosure applies under paragraphs (4) or (5); and
 - (b) in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- (2) A public authority shall apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.
- (3) To the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject, the personal data shall not be disclosed otherwise than in accordance with regulation 13.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that—
- (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received;
 - (b) the request for information is manifestly unreasonable;
 - (c) the request for information is formulated in too general a manner and the public authority has complied with regulation 9;
 - (d) the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data; or
 - (e) the request involves the disclosure of internal communications
- 5) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect—
- (a) international relations, defence, national security or public safety;
 - (b) the course of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an inquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature;
 - (c) intellectual property rights;
 - (d) the confidentiality of the proceedings of that or any other public authority where such confidentiality is provided by law;
 - (e) the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest;
 - (f) the interests of the person who provided the information where that person—
 - (i) was not under, and could not have been put under, any legal obligation to supply it to that or any other public authority;
 - (ii) did not supply it in circumstances such that that or any other public authority is entitled apart from these Regulations to disclose it; and
 - (iii) has not consented to its disclosure; or
 - (g) the protection of the environment to which the information relates.

Figure 1: Heathrow westerly arrivals during August 2016 (16,552 arrivals)



