# 2019 Aviation Safety Review





UNITED KINGDOM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (UK CAA)

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## Glossary

Name	Description
AAIB	Air Accidents Investigation Branch
ACAS	Airborne Collision Avoidance System
AME	Aeromedical Examiners
AIRPROX	A Situation in which the relative separation between aircraft as well as their relative positions and speeds were such that the safety of the aircraft involved may have been compromised.
ANO	Air Navigation Order
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATM	Air Traffic Management
BASP	Business Aviation Safety Partnership
BHA	British Helicopter Association
CAT	Commercial Air Transport
CHIRP	Confidential Incident Reporting Program
DfT	Department for Transport
DGP	Dangerous Goods Panel
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
ECCAIRS	European Co-ordination Accident & Incident Reporting System
EU376/2014	Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation
EU996/2010	Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation
GHOST	Ground Handling Operations Safety Team

Name	Description
HTAWS	Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning System
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules
MAC	Mid-Air Collision
MOR	Mandatory Occurrence Report
OHSAG	Offshore Helicopter Safety Action Group
	Non-commercial flights in complex motor-powered aircraft
PART-NUC	(European Regulation)
PART-SPO	Specialised Operations (European Regulation)
PBO	Performance Based Oversight
PED	Portable Electronic Device
SUAS	Small Unmanned Air System
SME	Subject Matter Expert
UA	Unmanned Aircraft. See also SUAS
UK CAA	United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority
UKLWG	UK Laser Working Group
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
Whistleblower	Protected disclosures made by persons to the UK CAA
	regarding potentially unsafe practice, policies of events.

#### Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the United Kingdom (UK) Aviation Safety Review for 2019.

This review has been published annually since 2016 and is intended to provide the general public and industry with a summary of occurrences reported to the UK Civil Aviation Authority (UK CAA). It contains key statistics and analysis prepared by our subject matter experts.

The UK is home to a diverse aviation environment that represents a number of different aviation activities from large commercial aviation operations to unmanned aircraft and everything in between. As a collective we represent pilots, air traffic controllers and engineers from all backgrounds and experience levels who work with us daily to ensure we are a proportionate and just regulator that works to provide a safe and transparent regulatory framework.

We continue to be extremely grateful to our aviation industry for the information and insights provided to us. It is through this ongoing collaboration and communication that we can achieve our goal of a safe aviation system for everyone in the UK and every UK citizen across the world.

If you would like to read more about our work please visit our publications page on our website.

#### Why publish an annual safety review?

European Regulation No. 376/2014 details the regulatory requirements relating to the reporting, analysis and follow up of occurrences for each EASA member state. Article 13 Paragraph 11 states that each member state shall publish a safety review at least once a year, with the overarching objective being to inform the public of the level of aviation safety. The UK CAA published its first annual safety review in 2016 and is now in its fourth version.

We very much hope that you find this report to be informative and interesting. Should you have any additional questions or require any additional information, please contact us: Safety.Intelligence@caa.co.uk

Thank you for reading our 2019 Aviation Safety Review.





### In Brief: UK Aviation Safety



\*Categories are not mutually exclusive as occurrences may involve multiple aircraft types



 Passenger Fatality Rates by Transport Mode (2018)

 Fatalities passenger kilometres (2009-VIIIs) average

 Image: Source State State

\*Occurrence categorisations are subject to change as new information becomes available

### **UK Aviation Sector Summary**



\*General Aviation Aircraft defined as any fixed wing aeroplane with an MTOW <5,701kg, any helicopter with and MTOW <3,175kg, any ultralight/microlight/gyroplane or glider and any ex-military aircraft registered in the UK.

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### Large Commercial Aeroplanes

Large Commercial Aeroplanes in Brief

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- Large commercial aeroplanes are any fixed wing aircraft with a maximum take-off weight greater than 5,701kg operated for commercial purposes.
- In simple terms these are the kinds of aircraft you are likely to see operating into airports like London Heathrow.
- As of 2019 there were approximately 1,000 large commercial aeroplanes operating in the UK for an AOC holder; collectively large commercial aeroplanes operated more than 2.3 million movements in and out of the UK.

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- 82 high severity occurrence reports relating to large commercial aircraft were received by the UK CAA during 2019.
- 38% (31) of these reports were related to operational issues brought about by factors associated with human performance.
- 30% (25) of reports were associated with technical failures or defects on the aircraft brought about by equipment failure or equipment not being maintained to a degree that would have prevented the failure from occurring.
- During 2019 there were no fatalities to either aircraft occupants or third parties associated with a UK registered large commercial aeroplane or a large commercial aeroplane operating in the UK.
- For the period between 2015-19 the UK CAA received 326 high severity reports, a yearly average of 64.

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OPERATIONAL	130	31	<ul> <li>Flight crew illness/incapacitation</li> <li>Incorrect Take-off performance calculations</li> <li>Unstable approach continuing to land</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Departure from runway intersections</li> <li>Human performance limitations</li> <li>Weather conditions impacting aircraft controllability during landing/go arounds</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	99	25	<ul> <li>Smoke or fumes detected in the aircraft during flight</li> <li>Instrumentation error or failure</li> <li>Cabin pressurisation failure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Maintenance errors, maintenance procedures not followed</li> <li>Manufacturing error with component</li> <li>Damage to component</li> </ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	54	13	<ul> <li>AIRPROX with Unmanned Aircraft (UA)</li> <li>AIRPROX with other CAT aircraft</li> <li>Aircraft misrouted into conflict with other aircraft</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unmanned aircraft flown into conflict with CAT aircraft.</li> <li>Flight crew not following ATC instructions.</li> <li>ATC issued instruction to incorrect aircraft.</li> </ul>
	14	10	<ul> <li>Aircraft struck by ground vehicle</li> <li>Aircraft damaged during push back</li> <li>Aircraft struck object during push back or taxi</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Aircraft pushed back into perimeter fence</li> <li>Ground vehicle operator misjudged aircraft position</li> <li>Miscommunication or poor visibility of the aircraft during pushback</li> <li>Vehicle cleared to enter runway in conflict with aircraft on approach</li> </ul>
WEATHER	16	2	<ul> <li>Crew or Passenger injury during turbulence</li> <li>Aircraft component failure or in operation</li> <li>Aircraft diversion</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Crew or passengers not secured during turbulence or loose objects not secured</li> <li>Ice causing components to not function or loss of lift due to ice build-up</li> <li>Diversion due to arrival aerodrome closed or not suitable for safe landing</li> </ul>
3rd PARTY	2	1	<ul> <li>Aircraft return following laser interference during take- off, resulting in-flight crew temporary incapacitation</li> <li>Weather balloon encounter</li> </ul>	Inadvertent, unsafe or Illegal operation of a laser
MIDURE	2		<ul> <li>Birdstrike resulting in damage to aircraft or engines</li> <li>Aircraft upset/loss of control during landing</li> <li>Aircraft return from flight following birdstrike/bird encounter</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Ineffective wildlife management</li><li>Seasonal migration of birds</li></ul>
INVER FLANORF	2		<ul><li>Aircraft ground collision</li><li>Runway safety event</li></ul>	<ul><li>Pilot Situational Awareness</li><li>Ground handling procedures</li></ul>

### Small Commercial and Business Aviation

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OFERATIONAL	11	2	<ul> <li>Runway Excursion on take-off/landing</li> <li>Aircraft attempted to land at incorrect aerodrome</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mishandling of the aircraft after landing</li> <li>Human Error</li> <li>Miscommunication between flight crew and ATC</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	20	4	<ul><li>Landing gear fault</li><li>Cabin pressurisation system failure</li></ul>	<ul><li>Aircraft electrical or hydraulic failure</li><li>Burst tyre on landing</li><li>General component failure</li></ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	7	2	AIRPROX in Class G airspace	<ul> <li>Unmanned Aircraft flown into conflict with other aircraft.</li> <li>General Aviation Aircraft flown into conflict with other aircraft</li> </ul>
AEROBROME & GROUND SERVICES	1		Aircraft struck nose of stationary aircraft.	Aircraft marshals and wing walkers misjudged wing clearance of manoeuvring aircraft
WEATHER				
3° PARTY				
WIDURE				
RUEE A HOUR				

#### **Small Commercial and Business Aviation in Brief**

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- Small commercial aeroplanes are considered to be any fixed wing aircraft with a maximum take-off weight less than 5,701kg being operated for commercial purposes or corporate/business travel.
- In simple terms these are smaller aircraft operating short passenger flights or business aircraft (e.g. corporate jets).

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- 8 high severity occurrence reports relating to small commercial or business aviation aircraft were received by the UK CAA during 2019.
- 25% (2) of these reports were related to AIRPROX occurrences where aircraft had operated in conflict with each other in uncontrolled airspace (Class G).
- 25% (2) of these reports were associated with operational issues related to human performance or decision making.
- During 2019 there were no fatalities to either aircraft occupants or third parties associated with small commercial or business aviation aircraft either registered or operating in the UK.
- For the period between 2015-19 the UK CAA received 39 high severity reports, a yearly average of 8.

### **Offshore Helicopters**

#### **Offshore Helicopters in Brief**

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- Offshore helicopters are rotary wing aircraft that are operated in support of offshore operations including oil and gas exploration activities.
- Many of these flights are carrying oil and gas workers as well as essential supplies to remote locations offshore (e.g. the North Sea).

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- There was 1 high severity occurrence reported to the UK CAA involving an offshore helicopter during 2019.
- During the last five years the UK CAA have received 13 high severity occurrence reports related to offshore operations.
- No fatalities were reported to have been sustained by aircraft occupants or third parties related to the operation of an offshore helicopter during 2019.

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OPERATIONAL	5		<ul> <li>Aircraft landed or attempted to land on incorrect helideck</li> <li>Flight crew incapacitation or impairment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transition from electronic navigation to visual flight for landing</li> <li>Short time between take-off landings; reduced thinking time for crew</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	5		<ul><li>Landing gear collapse</li><li>Loss of rotor authority</li></ul>	<ul><li>Gearbox component failure</li><li>Bearing, fastening or other component failure</li></ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	2	1	<ul><li>AIRPROX with Military aircraft</li><li>AIRPROX with small CAT aircraft</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Delay in adhering to deconfliction instructions issued by ATC</li> <li>Situational awareness and tactical planning</li> </ul>
WEATHER	1		<ul> <li>Loss of situational awareness in low visibility</li> </ul>	Visual reference points lost during low visibility flight at night
3" PARTY				
MIDIFIE				
INTER TRAKINGK				

# **Onshore Helicopters**

	0045				Onshore Helicopters in Brief
Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?	What kind of airproft are these?
OPERATIONAL	7	3	<ul><li>Loss of control after take-off</li><li>Aircraft collided with electricity cables</li></ul>	<ul><li>Lack of awareness of prevailing wind conditions</li><li>Pilot distraction/disorientation</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Onshore helicopter operations support the transportation of people and goods across the UK.</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	5	2	<ul><li>Failure of control surface or system.</li><li>Detachment of component in flight</li></ul>	<ul><li>Component re-installed incorrectly</li><li>Component failure</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Perhaps the most common type of work undertaken by onshore helicopters is the movement of people for the purposes of business or private travel.</li> </ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	4	2	<ul><li>AIRPROX with Military aircraft</li><li>AIRPROX with small CAT aircraft</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Delay in adhering to deconfliction instructions issued by ATC</li> <li>Situational awareness and tactical planning</li> </ul>	Summary of Safety Performance
					<ul> <li>There were 7 high severity occurrences related to onshore helicopters reported to the UK CAA during 2019.</li> </ul>
WEATHER					<ul> <li>43% (3) of occurrences reported in 2019 were related to operational issues brought about by pilot distraction or loss of control.</li> </ul>
310 PARTY					<ul> <li>There were no fatalities reported to the UK CAA involving an onshore helicopter either registered or operating in the UK.</li> </ul>
MIDUIF	1		Birdstrike during approach		<ul> <li>The last recorded fatal injury reported to the UK CAA occurred in October 2018 in Leicester, resulting in five fatalities to the aircraft occupants.</li> </ul>
INVERTEX ANNON					- There were 17 high severity occurrences reported to the UK CAA between 2015-2019, and average of 3 per year.
		V	Nhat and Why information presented above	should be read independently of on another	In November 2019 the UK CAA completed a review of onshore Helicopters published as CAP1864, the document can be found on

our website.

### **Emergency Services**

#### **Emergency Services in Brief**

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- Emergency service aircraft comprise of both fixed and rotary wing aircraft (e.g. aeroplanes and helicopters) and unmanned aircraft (UA) that are operated by entities including the police and air ambulance.
- Perhaps the most widely observed use of these aircraft are police and Air Ambulance helicopters. However, these aircraft also operate Search and Rescue and Coast Guard services and play a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of UK residents.

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- There were 3 high severity occurrences reported to the UK CAA involving Emergency Services aircraft during 2019.
- Between 2015-2019 9 high severity occurrences involving emergency services aircraft were reported to the UK CAA, an average of 2 per year.
- All the high severity occurrences reported involving emergency services aircraft during 2019 were related to technical issues with aircraft components or occurrences where components of the aircraft detached in flight.
- During 2019 there were no fatalities caused by an occurrence related to the operation of an emergency services aircraft to either the aircraft occupants or third parties.

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OPERATIONAL	3		<ul><li>Aircraft landed at closed airfield</li><li>Aircraft fouled cable during landing</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Precautionary diversion</li> <li>Loss of situational awareness during night operations</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	4	3	<ul><li>Component detachment in flight</li><li>Failure of flight critical component in flight</li></ul>	<ul><li>Cyclic control failure during flight.</li><li>Component failure during flight (fixings)</li></ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	1		AIRPROX with General Aviation aircraft	General Aviation aircraft flown into conflict with Emergency Services aircraft
WEATHER	1		Pilot disorientation in Instrument Metrological Conditions (IMC)	<ul> <li>Pilot operating in low cloud during rescue mission</li> </ul>
3° PARTY				
WIDHE				
RVHER RAHNBIN				

### **Specialised Operations**

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OPERATIONAL	4	2	<ul> <li>Aircraft lost control during approach</li> <li>Parked aircraft affected by helicopter downwash</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Aircraft encountered unstable air caused by proceeding aircraft</li> <li>Helicopter parked too close to another parked aircraft.</li> </ul>
TECHNICAL	2		<ul> <li>Smoke in cockpit</li> <li>Canopy detached during flight</li> <li>Powerplant failure</li> <li>Landing gear collapse</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Component failure (fixings)</li><li>Electrical component failure</li></ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	4	1	AIRPROX with General Aviation aircraft in class G airspace	<ul> <li>Reduced visibility impacting on pilot's ability to maintain visual separation</li> <li>Pilot not reacting to traffic information</li> </ul>
WEATHER				
3 <sup>rd</sup> PARTY				
WIDTHE				
RUEBRAK ANGRA				

What and Why information presented above should be read independently of on another

#### **Specialised Operations in Brief**

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- Specialised operations aircraft can be either fixed or rotary wing aircraft (e.g. aeroplanes and helicopters) which operate in support of a range of activities from powerline inspections to aerial photography.
- Due to the diverse nature of these operations it is possible to see this type of aviation at almost every part of the UK operated by a diverse fleet of aircraft.

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- There were 3 high severity occurrences reported to the UK CAA involving the operations of aircraft for the purposes of aerial work.
- Between 2015-2019 there were 10 high severity occurrences reported to the UK CAA involving the operations of aircraft for the purposes of aerial work, an average of 2 per year.
- 66% (2) of the high severity occurrences related to aerial work aircraft were related to aircraft loss of control in flight or the operation of aircraft near other parked aircraft nearby.
- There was one fatal accident associated with the operation of a specialised operations aircraft reported to the UK CAA during 2019. This occurrence resulted in 4 fatalities (the occurrence involved a light aircraft being operated for flight calibration purposes in Dubai.

### General Aviation (GA)

#### **General Aviation in Brief**

#### What kind of aircraft are these?

- General Aviation (GA) aircraft make up the largest single proportion of the UK aircraft fleet and account for around 90% of the circa. 20,000 of aircraft currently registered in the UK.
- Typically, these aircraft are smaller recreational aircraft operated for pleasure or training purposes.
- This aviation sector also includes ex-military jets that you may see performing at air display events, lighter than air aircraft (e.g. hot air balloons), light aeroplanes, helicopters, microlights and gyroplanes.
- Collectively these aircraft operate around 800,000 flight hours each year.

#### **Summary of Safety Performance**

- There were 262 high severity occurrences involving general aviation aircraft reported to the UK CAA during 2019, in line with the 5-year average.
- 47% (129) of these high severity occurrences were related to operational issues caused by human performance or decision making resulting in aircraft loss of control, collision with other objects during take-off or landing or runway safety events occurring.
- There were 11 fatal accidents involving General Aviation Aircraft reported to the UK CAA during 2019. These occurrences resulted in 17 fatalities
- As of 2019 there were over 18,000 General Aviation Aircraft operating in the UK and collectively these aircraft logged around 800,000 flight hours.
- Between 2015-2019 there were 1,264 high severity occurrences involving General Aviation Aircraft reported to the UK CAA, an average of 253 per year.

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?
OFERATIONAL	667	128	<ul> <li>Aircraft overran runway on landing</li> <li>Aircraft loss of control during landing</li> <li>Aircraft collided with object during take- off/landing</li> <li>Hard/bounced landing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Human error or misjudgement</li> <li>Pilot recency/currency</li> <li>Situational awareness and decision making</li> </ul>
TECHNICOL	390	94	<ul> <li>Engine failure resulting in forced landing</li> <li>Rough running engine or reduced power</li> <li>Undercarriage collapse</li> <li>Structural component failure</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Fuel system blockage or starvation</li><li>Component not secured to aircraft correctly</li><li>Failure of engine component</li></ul>
de la	78	17	<ul> <li>AIRPROX with other aircraft in Class G airspace</li> <li>AIRPROX with other aircraft in Class D airspace</li> <li>Loss of separation in the visual circuit</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pilot not maintaining good situational awareness</li> <li>Misunderstanding of ATC instructions</li> <li>Poor tactical planning by pilot(s)</li> </ul>
ARCORONAL RELAK	20	7	<ul> <li>Aircraft ground looped</li> <li>Undercarriage collapse</li> <li>Aircraft booged down in soft ground</li> </ul>	Poorly maintained runway surface
WEATHER	82	11	<ul> <li>Heavy landing</li> <li>Loss of control on landing</li> <li>Forced landing outside of aerodrome</li> <li>Runway excursion</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Ineffective weather planning</li><li>Aircraft operated in adverse weather conditions</li></ul>
3re PARTY	3		<ul> <li>Aircraft tipped over whilst waiting at holding point</li> </ul>	Combination of downwash from other aircraft and prevailing wing conditions
MIDDLE	2		Bird/wildlife strike with damage to aircraft	<ul> <li>Aircraft operating near wildlife</li> <li>Aircraft component not required to withstand birdstrike</li> </ul>
	22	5	<ul> <li>Aircraft reported to have crashed in unknown circumstances</li> <li>Fire of unknown origin reported on an aircraft</li> <li>Engine failed under unknown circumstances</li> </ul>	

Please note that Annex 1 aircraft are not mandated to report occurrence reports to the UK CAA although they are encouraged to do so in the interests of improving aviation safety it is accepted that the above view may not be a complete summary of GA reporting.

# Remote Piloted Air System (RPAS)

Key Safety Area	2015- 2019 (total)	2019	What	Why?	What kind of aircraft are these?
OPERATIONAL	21	12	<ul> <li>UA loss of control</li> <li>UA damaged on landing (Hard landing)</li> <li>UA collision with ground objects (e.g. tress)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Incorrect programming or operation of UA systems</li> <li>Software error</li> <li>Operator error</li> </ul>	- Unmanned aircraft (UA) are aircraft that can be operated for commercial purposes or recreation.
TECHNICAL	27	19	<ul> <li>Power loss during flight.</li> <li>Uncommanded control input</li> <li>Rotor arm failure</li> <li>Loss of control link with UA</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Battery not fitted correctly</li> <li>UA loaded with software that it was incompatible with</li> <li>Failure of motor</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>This activity has grown in popularity over recent years and has emerged as the UK newest aviation sector.</li> <li>Common uses of unmanned aircraft are filming at events and law activity and the propulation of the unit of the</li></ul>
AIRSPACE & ATC	35		<ul> <li>AIRPROX with other aircraft in controlled airspace</li> <li>UA sighted near other aircraft on approach to land</li> </ul>	UA Operated near aerodrome or other aircraft	consignment delivery.
					Summary of Safety Performance
WEATHER					<ul> <li>There were 31 high severity occurrences involving Unmanned Aircraft reported to the UK CAA during 2019.</li> <li>61% (19) of these high severity occurrences were related to aircraft</li> </ul>
3rd PARTY					<ul> <li>technical malfunctions including loss of power during flight and loss of control link between the operator and the unmanned aircraft.</li> <li>Between 2015-2019 there were 85 high severity occurrences</li> </ul>
MIDIFE	1		• UA struck ground object (e.g. tree)	UA operator was attempting to avoid birds	involving Unmanned Aircraft reported to the UK CAA, an average of 17 per year.
RIVER RATIOR	1				

#### What and Why information presented above should be read independently of on another

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Unmanned Aircraft in Brief

### High Severity Summary & Hot Topics



#### **Summary of High Severity Report Contents**

- A visualisation of the most frequently observed words contained within occurrence reports is shown above.
- This view allows us to identify key words and themes within our reporting data to focus are analytical work further. The contents of occurrence reports provide a crucial insight into events and as ever; the more detail a reporter can provide to us, the more effectively we can work to ensure that we identify and learn key lessons to reduce the likelihood of the same occurrence happening repeatedly.

#### **Our 2019 Aviation Safety Review Topics**

- Our 2019 Aviation Safety Review will focus on six additional areas and provide more details around what is being done by the UK CAA; and within the wider aviation system to maintain and improve aviation safety performance long term.
- Each section will provide some key statistics and a more detailed narrative provided by our subject matter experts.



### Focus on General Aviation (GA)



Please note that Annex 1 aircraft are not mandated to report occurrence reports to the UK CAA although they are encouraged to do so in the interests of improving aviation safety it is accepted that the above view may not be a complete summary of GA reporting.

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### Focus on UK Airspace & Air Traffic Management





### Focus on Aerodromes



### Focus on Offshore Helicopters





### Focus on Crew Wellbeing



### Focus on Cabin Air Quality



### Focus on Unmanned Aircraft (UA)





#### In Detail

- During 2019 there were 544 occurrences associated with Unmanned Aircraft (UA). 6% of these were classified as high severity occurrences.
- Similar to the occurrences trends observed in General Aviation, Unmanned Aircraft (UA) reports are more prevalent during the summer months (Jul-Sep) when weather and conditions are more conducive to the operation of these aircraft.
- Mid-air conflict and loss of control were the most frequently reported occurrence types involving UA.
- There were 358 Mid Air Conflict (MAC) occurrences reported to the UK CAA during 2019, compared to 433 in 2018; a 15% decrease year over year.
  - 278 of these occurrences involved a UA and commercial aircraft, and 46 involved a UA and General Aviation Aircraft.
- 96 Loss of Control occurrences involving a UA were reported in 2019, a 95% increase on 2018 (48 occurrences).
- Human error was the most frequently identified root cause for these occurrences, followed by loss of control link and issues associated with the aircraft propulsion system.

#### What is being done to Improve Safety?

- Flight Restriction Zones (FRZs). These have been established around protected aerodromes since March 2019. These are areas around aerodromes where remote pilots must obtain permission from the aerodrome operator before flying their UA. A map of FRZs can be found here at https://dronesafe.uk/restrictions/.
- **Safety Notices (SNs).** For more urgent safety concerns the CAA will publish SNs. They provide recommendations to help keep people safer. Recent SNs about UA have covered advice on the overflight of uninvolved people, <u>SN-2020/002</u> and practicing for in-flight failures, <u>SN-2020/010</u>.
- **Registration and Education**. This is key to improving behaviours and from November 2019 it became mandatory for anyone responsible for UA (including model aircraft) weighing between 250 g and 20 kg to register as an operator. The cost for registration is £9 and is renewable annually.
- **New regulations**. New UAS regulations will become applicable on 31 December 2020. These will improve the regulation of all UA by becoming more safety risk based.
- Further guidance in UA operations within the UK airspace can be found in our UK guidance <u>CAP722</u>.
- More details can be found on our website

#### How can you help?

 As ever pre-flight planning is critical to any flight whether you are operating a large complex commercial aircraft or an unmanned aircraft.



 Keep yourself as up to date as possible by checking out our safety notices, you can also stay up to date with the latest publications from the UK CAA by subscribing to our <u>SkyWise</u> alerts.



- If you are operating an unmanned aircraft with a weight between 250g to 20Kg, register for an operator ID and ensure that this is visible on all your unmanned aircraft.



- Unmanned Aircraft are mandated to report under the existing occurrence reporting regulation. If you witness or experience a reportable occurrence, please tell us about this by filing an occurrence report. More details on how to do this and what is considered reportable can be found in EU 376/2014 and associated reporting list detailed in IR 2015/1018.

### Our 2020 Aviation Safety Review Preview

2020 promises to be a year that will be forever remembered in the annals of history.

For the United Kingdom 2020 represents a year of transition as we migrate from the role of a member state of EASA to one of an independent industry and regulator. These changes will bring new opportunities for industry development but also challenges as we adapt to this new role and operating environment.

The impact of global pandemic brought about by COVID-19 will also have a sustained impact on our aviation system globally. This again presents new challenges and opportunities for both the regulator and wider industry to adapt in a way that is both safe and viable.

For the UK CAA our mission remains unchanged in that we will continue to work to ensure that our aviation safety and all those who are or might be affected by aviation are kept as safe as possible every day. We will achieve this by continuing our development of Performance Based Regulation (PBR) and evolving this concept to introduce a Total Safety Risk Framework which allows us to segment the aviation system to monitor risk performance and safety more effectively; and by adopting the Key Risk Areas (KRA) framework used by EASA and other authorities across the world.

#### Preview of our 2020 Annual Safety Review

Our 2020 aviation review will provide a safety summary based on the total safety risk framework and key risk areas as well as providing more detail around the below topics:

- Safety actions and impact of Coronavirus (SARS-COV-2) aka. COVID19.
- Runway Safety Performance
- General Aviation Safety Performance



### The Future of Aviation Regulation in the United Kingdom



From 01 January 2021 the United Kingdom will emerge as an independent regulator. Our mission as a safety regulator remains unchanged and we will continue to work to ensure this transition is managed in a safe, smooth and efficient way.

#### Mandatory occurrence regulation/reporting beyond 2020

From 01 January 2021 the United Kingdom will exit the transition period and emerge as an independent state outside of the European Union.

For the UK CAA this means that we will no longer be part of EASA and not bound by European regulation. To ensure a smooth and efficient transition the UK CAA will be adopting the existing European Regulation whilst new legislation that will govern the future of aviation regulation in the United Kingdom is developed and approved by central government.

If you are using ECCAIRS compatible software for mandatory occurrence reporting, you should not notice any difference. For guidance on the type of mandatory occurrences that need to be reported to the CAA and how to report those occurrences please see EU 376/2014 and associated reporting list detailed in IR 2015/1018.

For reporters using the aviation reporting portal (aviationreporting.eu) please note that from 18 December 2020 this portal is being updated to a new look reporting form where you can send your report to us.

The United Kingdom will continue to use ECCAIRS following the end of the transition period and remain committed to continuing to work with our colleagues in Europe and across the world to ensure that safety concerns and trends are made as visible as possible in the interests of enhancing aviation safety globally.

More information can be found on: www.info.caa.co.uk/brexit/

#### Working with Industry

The UK CAA also remains committed to working closer with our industry and aviation communities to build and develop insight and take appropriate and proportionate action to ensure that our aviation system continues to serve and protect all involved or effected by aviation in the UK.

### Explanations

Please note that for some of the terms presented in the list below, there may be no formal definition, or the existing definitions may be complex. In such cases, we have used simplified explanations instead of the definitions.

Name	Explanation	Name				
Accident	An occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which					
	takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the	aeroplan				
	intention of flight until such time as all such persons have					
	disembarked, in which:					
	a) a person is fatally or seriously injured as					
	ahttps://www.skybrary.aero/index.php/Accident result of: being in					
	the aircraft, or direct contact with any part of the aircraft, including					
	parts which have become detached from the aircraft, or direct					
	exposure to jet blast, except when the injuries are from natural					
	causes, self-inflicted or inflicted by other persons, or when the					
	injuries are to stowaways hiding outside the areas normally available					
	to the passengers and crew; or					
	b) the aircraft sustains damage or structural failure which: adversely					
	affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics					
	of the aircraft, and would normally require major repair or					
	replacement of the affected component, would normally require					
	major repair or replacement of the affected component, except for					
	engine failure or damage, when the damage is limited to the engine,					
	its cowlings or accessories; or for damage limited to propellers, wing					
	tips, antennas, tires, brakes, fairings, small dents or puncture holes in					
	the aircraft skin; or					
	c) the aircraft is missing or is completely inaccessible					

### ame Explanation

rgo Scheduled and unscheduled cargo commercial air transport nes services in aircraft with maximum allowed take-off weight of more than 5,700 kilograms

Aerial work Airborne collision avoidance systems	Aircraft used for specialised operations, such as agriculture, construction, photography, surveying, observation, patrol and aerial advertisement Aircraft system providing advice to pilots for the purpose of avoiding potential collisions	Large commercial aeroplanes Large passenger aeroplanes	Scheduled and unscheduled passenger and cargo commercial air transport services in aircraft with maximum allowed take-off weight of more than 5,700 kilograms Scheduled and unscheduled passenger commercial air transport services in aircraft with maximum allowed take-off weight of more than 5,700 kilograms
Commercial	Aircraft operation to transport passengers, cargo or mail for	Loss of	Occurs whenever specified separation minima between airborne
air transport	remuneration or other valuable consideration	separation	aircraft in controlled airspace are breached. Minimum separation standards for airspace are specified by Air Traffic Services
Commercial	Operation of an aircraft, in return for remuneration or other valuable	Mandatory	An occurrence means any safety-related event which endangers or
operation	consideration, which is available to the public or, when not made	occurrence	which, if not corrected or addressed, could endanger an aircraft,
(aviation)	available to the public, which is performed under a contract between	reports	its occupants or any other person
	an operator and a customer, where the latter has no control over the		
	operator		
Complex	An aeroplane: with a maximum certificated take-off mass exceeding	Member	European Aviation Safety Agency Member States
motor-	5700 kg, or certificated for a maximum passenger seating	State	
powered	configuration of more than nineteen, or certificated for operation		
aircraft	with a minimum crew of at least two pilots, or equipped with (a)		
	turbojet engine(s) or more than one turboprop engine, or		
	a helicopter certificated: for a maximum take-off mass exceeding		
	3175 kg, or for a maximum passenger seating configuration of more		
	than nine, or for a maximum passenger seating configuration of more		
	than nine, or for operation with a minimum crew of at least two		
	pilots, or a tilt rotor aircraft		
Confirmed	Any reported collision between a bird and an aircraft for which	Non-	Operation of aircraft for private flying consisting of business or
birdstrike	evidence, in the form of a carcass, or other remains is found on the	commercial	corporate, personal transport, recreational and sporting activity
	ground, or damage and/or other evidence is found on the aircraft	operation	
		(aviation)	

Control area	Area normally established in the vicinity of one or more major airports, with specified lower and upper limits	Non-G- registered aircraft	Aircraft not registered by the UK CAA or State of registry is not the UK (registration mark does not contain the prefix "G-")
Control zone	Controlled airspace extending upwards from the surface of the earth to a specified upper limit, normally around an airport	Offshore helicopters	Scheduled and non-scheduled offshore commercial operation of helicopters (predominantly for the Oil & Gas industry)
Danger area	Airspace of defined dimensions within which activities dangerous to the flight of aircraft may exist at specified times	Onshore helicopters	Onshore commercial and non-commercial operation of helicopters, including Business/Corporate flights and excluding General Aviation operations
Emergency services	Emergency operations with helicopters, such as Search and Rescue, Police and emergency medical services	Propeller (or rotor) wash	The force or wind generated behind a propeller, particularly when high/full power is set
Engine cowl	Engine protective covering	Runway excursion	Occurs when an aircraft departs the runway in use during the take- off or landing phase
General aviation	Aeroplanes, Airships, Balloons, Gliders, Gyroplanes, Helicopters and Microlights used for private flying consisting of personal transport, recreational and sporting activity. Includes commercial operations with Balloons	Serious incident	An incident involving circumstances indicating that there was a high probability of an accident and associated with the operation of an aircraft which, in the case of a manned aircraft, takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such persons have disembarked, or in the case of an unmanned aircraft, takes place between the time the aircraft is ready to move with the purpose of flight until such time as it comes to rest at the end of the flight and the primary propulsion system is shut down
G-Registered aircraft	Aircraft registered in the UK, by the UK CAA (registration mark contains the prefix "G-"), including other aircraft operated in the UK that do not require a registration mark	Small commercial and business aeroplanes	Scheduled and unscheduled passenger and cargo commercial air transport services in aircraft with maximum allowed take-off weight of 5,700 kilograms or below, or commercial and non- commercial operations with aircraft engaged in Business/Corporate flights, with no maximum allowed take-off weight threshold
Ground roll	The movement of an aircraft on the ground, under its own power, until it becomes airborne on take-off, or after touchdown on landing	Tail strike	Occurs when the tail of an aircraft impacts the runway during the take-off or landing phase
Hazard	Any condition that can cause or contribute to an aircraft incident or accident	UK airline	UK registered or operated scheduled and unscheduled commercial air transport services

High severity	MORs that involve fatalities or serious injuries, the inability to
occurrences	continue safe flight and landing, a significant increase in flight crew
	workload, a serious loss of separation, a serious ATM system failure
	or a serious degradation of aircraft strength / integrity / handling /
	performance and a potential catastrophic outcome

UK aviation	UK Aviation represents all the occurrences reported to the UK CAA
	in the UK or involving G-Registered or UK operated aircraft
	overseas

