

4 September 2015
Reference: E0002428/2433

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent requests dated 3 August and 6 August 2015 for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Your requests concerned the interactions and correspondence between the CAA and the Airports Commission, including Airports Commission Expert Advisory Panel members, and between the CAA and the Department for Transport in relation to the work of the Airports Commission.

We have engaged with the Airports Commission on a wide range of issues and we have made a considerable volume of information available on our website which includes the document you specifically requested, referred to on p243 of the Commission's final report, our [Preliminary Safety Assessment of the shortlisted options](#). Our responses to a number of the Commission's consultations, along with some other relevant information, are also available on our [website](#).

In relation to the remainder of your requests, a preliminary review has identified several thousands of emails on a variety of subjects, as set out in my email of 12 August, and we have concluded that the broad nature of your request has meant it is impossible for us to deal with it.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), we are not obliged to comply with a request for information if the cost of complying with the request would exceed £450, and we have estimated that this cost limit would be exceeded in this case.

Some of the information requested is environmental information, and we are therefore obliged to consider disclosure under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). Under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, we may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable and we consider that, due to the volume of the information, this exception applies in this case. In relation to the environmental information, we have also considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. While we recognise the public interest in the disclosure of this information, we have concluded that the public interest in protecting the CAA from the excessive burden in responding to your request outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Civil Aviation Authority

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

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

If you are able to narrow the scope of your request so that that it is less wide ranging we would be happy to consider a revised request.

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

www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=286&pagetype=65&appid=24>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Stevens'.

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager

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.