

15 October 2015
Reference: F0002501

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 29 September 2015, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request was *I would like to request the total number of incidents reported of firework activity and if possible, broken down by year and by airport/region*. Following your telephone conversation with one of my colleagues, we have interpreted this as incidents reported where fireworks caused a hazard to an aircraft.

Having considered your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are able to provide the information below.

Incident reports are provided to the CAA under the terms of the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) scheme, as described under Article 226 of the Air Navigation Order 2009. Each report made is reviewed and, where appropriate, further investigation carried out and action taken.

We have carried out a search of the CAA database for any report which involves fireworks regardless of the aircraft operation/nationality or location for the period 1 January 1976 to all processed information as at 7 October 2015 and provided a summary in the attachment.

We have not included identifying information in these summary reports as this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA.

Section 44(1)(a) provides that information is exempt information if its disclosure is prohibited by, or under, any enactment. Under Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, information which relates to a particular person (which includes a company or organisation) and has been supplied to the CAA pursuant to an Air Navigation Order is prohibited from disclosure (a copy of this exemption can be found below).

For more information about the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting scheme, please refer to CAP382 which can be found at: www.caa.co.uk/cap382.

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.

Freedom of Information Act: Section 44

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it-

- (a) is prohibited by or under any enactment,
- (b) is incompatible with any Community obligation, or
- (c) would constitute or be punishable as a contempt of court.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) fall within any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1).

File number	UTC date	Location name	Headline	Narrative text
198303253	05/11/1983	ABERDEEN (ADN)	Occurrence : PARACHUTE FLARES WITHIN CIRCUIT AREA TO A HEIGHT OF 1000FT AGL	ON FIREWORK NIGHT OVER PERIOD OF 2HOURS ONE ROCKET/FLARE SPED PAST NOSE OF A/C 50-100FT AWAY.DEPLOYED INTO RED FLARE ALONGSIDE A/C.POTENTIAL HAZARD. CAA CLOSURE.ACTION TAKENWITH A/FIELD TO ENSURE NO RECURRENCE.
198702910	22/10/1987	London-Heathrow - LHR	Occurrence : RISK OF COLLISION WITH FIREWORKS AT 250FT AGL	A ROCKET WAS SEEN TO RISE TO THE RIGHT OF A/C CENTRELINE THEN DRIFT JUST OVER THE A/C AND DROP TO THE LEFT OF CENTRE LINE.LOCAL FESTIVAL BELIEVED IN PRO- GRESS IN THE AREA-NO WARNING GIVEN. CAA CLOSURE-IN CASE OF ORGANISED DIS- PLAYS NOTIFIED TO AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND/OR ATC.PROCEDURES EXIST TO ADVISE ORGANISERS OF PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITY.IN SUBJECTCASE,POLICE WERE ADVISED OF INCIDENT BUT NO ACTION WAS POSSIBLE DUE LARGE NUMBER OF DISPLAYS AND INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY WITH FIREWORKS AT THE TIME.PROBLEM IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TOACTION BY CAA OR OTHER AGENCIES & PUB- LICITY LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
199004698	23/10/1990	London-Heathrow - LHR	ATC Occurrence : SEVERAL FIREWORK DISPLAYS IN PROGRESS NEAR LHR-HAZARD TO APPROACHING A/C.	SOME FIREWORKS REACHED CONSIDERABLE HEIGHTS. WARNINGS BROADCAST BY ATIS. A/D POLICE & LOCAL POLICE ADVISED. ACTIVE R/W CHANGED WHEN DISPLAY PATTERN ALTERED. SEVERAL A/C ENDANGERED/INCONVENIENCED.SEE DIGEST 90/D/44. CAA CLOSURE-DTI HAS AGREED TO REQUEST FIREWORK MFRS TO LABEL PRODUCTS WITH WARNING NOT TO LAUNCH WITHIN 8KMS OF AIRFIELDS. NO CAA ACTION POSSIBLE, UNLESS PROSECUTION UNDERARTICLE 50 IS TAKEN ON FURTHER INCIDENTS.
199203746	29/08/1992	MALTA	Other Occurrence : AT APPROX 300FT ON FINALS R/W 14 VERY POWERFUL FIREWORKS EXPLODED 200-300 METRES FROM LH WING, SAME HEIGHT. HAZARD.	
199501024	09/03/1995	KHARTOUM	Foreign Occurrence : Whilst B757 was cruising at FL330 two passengers reported seeing flying objects/bright lights.	The a/c was flying southbound on airway UA10 when a passenger reported seeing something that looked like a fireworkrocket in an upward trajectory. The object reached the same level as the a/c and then burnt out with a shower of bright sparks. Occ will be "opened" for CAA investigation if supplementary info so warrants.
199503184	30/07/1995	SAO PAULO	Airprox Foreign : B747 and balloons. Subject to investigation by the Brazilian authority.	After departure and on a SID the B747 had to take avoiding action on at least three occasions due to very large number of balloons trailing banners and fireworks at all levels up to FL130. See also occs 93/03100 and 94/02562.
199604619	02/10/1996	EXETER	Other Occurrence : Firework discharged in vicinity of a/c.	While in the hover, 500ft above a group of people, a rocket was discharged by one of the group towards the a/c. No damage reported. Opr subsequently advised crews to restrict approach in such circumstances to no closer than 300 metres.
199605394	05/11/1996	LEEDS BRADFORD (LBA)	Other Occurrence : Two a/c on finals to R/W14 reported fireworks passing very close to a/c.	Police informed.
199804208	21/07/1998	BARKWAY (BKY)	Other Occurrence : Whilst a/c climbing through FL73, bothcrew observed a firework type rocket climb through their level.	"Rocket" was approximately 1 mile ahead & subsequently fizzled out & descended. Appropriate authorities alerted.
199907320	25/10/1999	Barkway (BKY) 4N	ATC Occurrence : Fireworks reported reaching in excess of8000ft in Barkway area (Near Royston).	Pilot of ATR42, 4nm northwest Barkway at 8000ft, reportedpyrotechnic activity in the form of a green rocket exploding in front & above. Pilot also reported pyrotechnics seen in same area when inbound. None of the observations wereseen by Stansted
199907828	18/10/1999	BIRMINGHAM	Other Occurrence : Fireworks rocket exploded about 200 metres in front of aircraft.	B737 at 300ft on finals for R/W15 at Birmingham, flew through the smoke from the explosion. Reported to ATC who also witnessed the event. Police notified. See also 9907827.
200008180	04/11/2000	Manchester (MCT)	A320, at 0.8nm final R/W24R Manchester, flew through anexploding firework.	Appropriate action has been taken. See Digest 00/D/12.
200008292	03/11/2000	Leeds Bradford (LBA) (West Yor	Pilot reported that a/c had been struck by a firework at 100ft on the approach to R/W32. No damage evident.	
200107603	02/11/2001	Glasgow (GOW)	B757 at 600ft reported a firework exploding below a/c, which had caused no problem and P1 was happy to continue descent with no further incident.	
200107759	05/11/2001	Southampton (SAM)	As EMB145 was on approach and passing 400ft, fireworks (pyrotechnics) were observed exploding above the a/c and displaced from the final approach track by a few hundred metres.	

200107777	05/11/2001	East Midlands	Firework exploded directly in front of E145 at 400ft on approach to R/W27 at East Midlands.	Airport authority and police notified.
200203593	14/05/2002	Hersham (Surrey)	Firework allegedly fired deliberately towards helicopter at 800ft. Firework exploded approximately 200ft below helicopter.	
200207691	18/10/2002	Hawarden	BAe146, on short final to R/W05 at Hawarden, reported seeing fireworks at similar level. ATC advised and police notified.	
200208019	04/11/2002	London-Heathrow - LHR	During A321's final approach track to R/W27R numerous fireworks observed. When on short finals at 300ft a rocket exploded in close proximity.	
200208059	02/11/2002	London-Heathrow - LHR	Crew suspect firework hit a/c. Small thud felt similar to bird strike. P1 saw vertical smoke trail from the ground. Area was an industrial park with a small group of people looking up. No damage.	Tower was informed for police action. No damage found on subsequent engineering check of a/c.
200208081	04/11/2002	London-Heathrow - LHR	Multiple firework rockets detonated very close to the a/c at 400 feet whilst at 1 DME R/W 27R.	The a/c flew through 2 clouds of smoke from exploded fireworks, the smoke being illuminated by the landing lights. ATC alerted, police informed. Fireworks had been set off from an unlit area just to the East of a large floodlit carpark which is just East of the 27L threshold. The landing runway had been switched to 27R from 27L shortly before this incident. See also occs 200208019 and 200208059.
200208082	04/11/2002	London-Heathrow - LHR	During A319's final approach track to R/W27L several large firework rockets exploded in close proximity. A319 continued to landing. Due to previous reports ATC instructed a/c to use R/W27R.	See also occs 200208019, 200208059 and 200208081.
200208171	28/10/2002	Birmingham	BAe146 was approximately 1nm from touchdown on the ILS for R/W15 when a large firework exploded in close proximity. BAe146 continued for a normal landing. Incident reported to ATC.	
200209422	05/11/2002	Manchester (MCT)	When BAe146 was at 300ft on short finals to R/W24R, fireworks were observed. Two rockets exploded in front of a/c and another rocket passed RH wing. ATC informed and appropriate action taken.	
200305106	29/07/2003	Bristol Filton	During the day ATC and pilot observed a firework exploded in close proximity to a PA28 downwind for R/W27 at Bristol Filton. Firework exploded between PA28 and R/W threshold. Appropriate action taken.	
200307404	20/10/2003	Leeds Bradford (LBA)	Whilst EMB145 was at 1200ft, 1DME on final approach to R/W32, a rocket type firework was seen to explode at same altitude close to RH wingtip.	
200307419	25/10/2003	London-Heathrow - LHR	When B757 was 350ft during approach to R/W27L at night a firework (rocket) passed over the cockpit. Fortunately firework did not explode near or impact B757. ATC informed.	
200307611	01/11/2003	London-Heathrow - LHR	A321 at 560ft on final approach to R/W27R was struck by a firework. Crew heard a small thud and simultaneously saw a flash against RH side of A321. No damage reported.	
200307635	01/11/2003	Manchester (MCT)	Firework display directly in line with landing R/W24R 1.1nm finals. DHC8 on approach disconnected autopilot and flew manually above glidepath with ATC approval. Normal landing once clear of display.	Arrival ATIS was subsequently amended to include details of the fireworks. Police also alerted.
200307722	06/11/2003	Birmingham	As B757 passed 450ft during approach to R/W15 a firework exploded 50ft below and 80mtrs ahead of a/c.	Police alerted.
200307735	05/11/2003	Manchester (MCT)	Suspect A320 struck by firework at 250ft on finals. Several fireworks observed in front of a/c, with a/c struck by something (suspect spent firework) as it passed through the smoke. No damage.	
200307793	08/11/2003	Birmingham	During final approach to R/W15 small fireworks were observed on short finals. A321 was at 1nm/350ft when a large firework exploded directly in front of a/c. ATC were informed.	
200405533	10/08/2004	Malta	During A321's approach to R/W14 at approximately 5nm from touchdown and 1770ft, large fireworks were bursting directly under a/c. Fireworks assessed to be at 1000-1500ft.	
200407654	22/10/2004	Gloucester-Staverton	Pyrotechnic fired towards an EC135 on final approach.	The pyrotechnic was silver in colour and reached 150-200 feet. Police informed.
200408240	12/11/2004	London-Heathrow - LHR	B767 on short final to R/W27R was struck on LH side by firework. Fireworks seen to be above Glideslope profile during descent. No damage reported.	ATIS gave information to expect extensive firework activity on approach.

200408625	26/11/2004	London-Heathrow - LHR	As B767 passed 400ft during approach to R/W27R a firework exploded 50ft below and slightly ahead of a/c. Significant display in close proximity to centreline resulted in ATC changing runways.	Other a/c affected. Police informed.
200508938	29/10/2005	Glasgow (GOW)	Firework explosion in close proximity to aircraft during approach to R/W 05 at Glasgow.	At approx 800-850ft on an ILS approach to R/W 05 a firework rocket was seen to rise and explode within 3 wingspans of the aircraft. Although there was no damage to the aircraft, the reporter is concerned that with a southerly wind of 20kts at 800ft fireworks could easily carry through the centreline of R/W 05. The reporter confirms that the launch site was close to the A737 road and the Phoenix Retail Park. Incident reported to airport police.
200509275	04/11/2005	Manchester (MCT)	Firework exploded approx 10 yards to left of cockpit at 150ft RA on approach to MAN. Landing completed without further incident.	ATC had pre-warned the crew about the possibility of fireworks after the previous aircraft had reported a similar incident. The police were informed but were unable to locate the source of the firework. See also 200509277.
200509277	04/11/2005	Manchester (MCT)	On short finals to MAN a firework was allegedly aimed at the aircraft, detonating close to the left side of the cockpit.	ATC were advised and they, in turn, informed the police who were unable to locate the source of the fireworks. The following aircraft reported a similar incident. See also 200509275.
200509294	04/11/2005	London-Gatwick - LGW	An A320 and A321 inbound to Gatwick, both reported a firework display was too close to the final approach track for R/W26L and the height of the display was similar to their final approach height.	Police alerted.
200509325	12/11/2005	London-Gatwick - LGW	A320 flew through the level of exploding fireworks at approximately 500 feet on approach to 26L. ATC advised but precise location of fireworks could not be ascertained.	Uneventful landing. Appropriate action is to be taken by the BAA to raise awareness through local media at the appropriate time of year and a targeted leaflet campaign will be made to homes under the approaches.
200510183	11/12/2005	Nottingham East Midlands	On very short finals a red flare tracked up from farm buildings left of finals. Flare reached the same height as the a/c with an estimated 100 foot lateral displacement. Police alerted.	
200606817	18/07/2006	London-Heathrow - LHR	Crew of a B777 at 700ft on initial climb out, observed two green flares pass the a/c nose from right to left. ATC informed.	
200607102	07/08/2006	Aberdeen (ADN)	Crew of B737, at 200ft on approach, observed a bright white flash below and to the right of the a/c. A/c landed without incident. ATC informed. Police met the a/c and took statements from the crew.	
200610009	01/11/2006	Dawlish	PA28 in the cruise at 3000ft, encountered a green flare crossing in front of the a/c, descending from approximately 4000ft and burning out at approximately 2500ft.	No known military/rescue activity in the area.
200610738	12/11/2006	Doncaster Sheffield	Fireworks believed being fired, possibly from vehicle on perimeter road, in direction of taxiing B737.	Airport operations alerted and a perimeter patrol found nothing although the Aerodrome Control Centre advised that a car had been observed on CCTV parked on Old Bawtry Road. Manchester ACC alerted so that information could be passed to the next inbound a/c.
200710823	23/10/2007	Gloucester-Staverton	When Metro was on finals to R/W09 at 0.5nm and 150ft agl, a firework was allegedly shot at the a/c. No damage to a/c.	
200710890	02/11/2007	Nottingham East Midlands	A320 on final approach at approximately 300ft was struck by a rocket firework. After shutdown inspection of a/c showed some scorching of paintwork above P1's windscreen.	See also 200710904.
200710904	05/11/2007	Nottingham East Midlands	When A319 was at 700ft on final approach, fireworks were observed to be launched in front of a/c, which caused distraction to the pilot flying the a/c. There was no damage to the a/c.	See also 200710890.
200711007	05/11/2007	London-Heathrow - LHR	When A320 was at approximately 400ft on ILS R/W27R, underside of a/c was struck by a firework. All systems OK and a/c continued to landing.	
200711151	09/11/2007	London-Heathrow - LHR	A320 on final approach at 100ft reported seeing fireworks in close proximity to the a/c.	See also 200711152.
200711152	09/11/2007	London-Heathrow - LHR	A320 on approach at 300ft reported seeing numerous fireworks, flash caused distraction.	See also 200711151.
200711185	09/11/2007	London-Heathrow - LHR	B777 on approach at 700ft was possibly struck by a rocket firework that burst above the a/c, crew stated they heard the sound of impact. Reported to ATC.	

200711262	15/11/2007	Manchester (MCT)	Whilst A320 was on short final to R/W23R, a firework exploded in close proximity of LH side of a/c.	
200801949	11/02/2008	London-Heathrow - LHR	A319 crew saw a bright white exploding light near the a/c during its initial climb at 2000ft. ATC also noticed event and appropriate authorities notified.	
200901234	11/02/2009	Aberdeen (ADN)	SA332 on approach at 1500ft reported seeing a red flare/fireworks in close proximity to the a/c. Incident reported to the local authorities.	
200911919	03/11/2009	Luton (LUT)	Whilst on left base to R/W26, B737 reported that the co-pilot had seen a firework pass 10-15ft above the B737.	
200911979	31/10/2009	Leeds Bradford (LBA)	B737 at 200ft was targeted by a firework. Pilot reports being distracted. Local authorities informed.	
200912091	07/11/2009	North Denes	An AB139 inbound to North Denes, reported that a large scale firework display was too close preventing use of R/W27.	Although the organisers had contacted North Denes to advise them of the display, when asked not to go ahead, they refused. Local authorities informed.
200912349	15/11/2009	London-Gatwick - LGW	A319 on approach at 500ft reported seeing a firework explode in close proximity to the a/c. ATC informed.	
200913286	06/12/2009	Manchester (MCT)	A321 on approach was targeted by a firework. Local authorities informed.	
201009897	09/09/2010	Mayfield (MAY)	DHC8 in descent at 5000ft reported seeing a firework typerocket beneath the a/c. No effect on flight.	
201012594	05/11/2010	London-Heathrow - LHR	Multiple firework displays close in to airport. Firework passed very close to left wing (20m) during short finals.	
201012604	06/11/2010	London-Heathrow - LHR	Fireworks aimed at a/c by persons on ground shortly prior to landing. ATC and local authorities informed.	
201012620	05/11/2010	London-Heathrow - LHR	Firework display observed approx 1.5nm East of threshold 27R slightly to the right of approach path. Large fireworks observed bursting approx 150-100ft below flight path.	Event seemed organised rather than individual single bursts. ATC informed
201012624	06/11/2010	London-Heathrow - LHR	Fireworks directed at a/c on short finals. The crew reported the incident to the Tower controller and followed this up with a telephone call to ATC.	
201012630	28/10/2010	Middle Wallop	Firework display in field adjacent to the airfield boundary. Not NOTAMed. Runway change requested and given.	
201102470	13/03/2011	London City - LCY	Firework display East South East of R/W27 threshold. Inbound flights suspended for 6mins. Two missed approaches resulted.	Appropriate CAA action is being taken as a result of this incident.
201112392	07/10/2011	Belfast City	DHC8 reported being deliberately targeted by a firework at 0.7dme whilst on approach for R/W04. Local authorities informed.	
201114806	01/12/2011	Church Fenton	Military a/c targeted by a firework during night flying whilst on approach to Church Fenton at 300ft. Due to potential threat, the targeted a/c and another a/c diverted to RAF Linton.	
201213697	10/11/2012	EGKK (LGW): London/Gatwick	Three a/c on approach reported fireworks in close proximity to R/W26R. Controller warned all a/c following first report. All a/c elected to continue and landed safely. Fireworks cited as a distraction by one a/c crew.	No NOTAMS published referring to any planned displays close to the airport. Police alerted, who located the site but were unable to apprehend any individual.
201304243	18/04/2013	SBGL (GIG): Rio De Janeiro/Intl Galeao, Rj	B777, in climb passing 2200ft, reported a balloon dropping fireworks in close proximity to the a/c. Turn towards GL006 initiated iaw SID ensured no collision.	
201313777	26/10/2013	EGAC (BHD): Belfast/City	Firework display team failed to obtain permission from ATC before commencing a display.	A firework display had been planned to start at 1900hrs, 1.5nm NE of the airport. The firework organisers had been instructed to obtain permission from ATC 30mins prior to the commencement of the display. However, ATC did not receive any calls from the firework organisers and the firework display was seen to commence at approx 1925hrs without prior warning to ATC. Repeated attempts to contact the firework organisers to stop the display were unsuccessful and inbound aircraft had to be routed to the MAGEE hold due to the display.
201314131	03/11/2013	EGLL (LHR): London/Heathrow	Large explosive fireworks allegedly fired directly towards aircraft on short final. Approach continued with normal landing.	
201314561	08/11/2013	EGNX (EMA): NOTTINGHAM EAST MIDLANDS	Firework observed during final approach to R/W27.	A firework crossed the path of an aircraft during final approach to R/W27 but did not reach the aircraft's altitude. Pilot commented that evasive action had not been necessary but the firework had been a significant distraction and the close proximity of

201314791	16/11/2013	EGAC (BHD): Belfast/City	Unauthorised firework display in close proximity to R/W22 whilst an aircraft was on final approach.	Firework event organisers advised ATC of an intended firework display, approx 1nm North of R/W22 final approach, however it became apparent that permission had not been obtained from the required authorities. The firework organisers subsequently notified ATC of their intent to display at 1745hrs for 15mins. ATC reminded the firework organisers that the display had not been approved. Fireworks were then observed from the VCR at 1747hrs whilst an aircraft was on final approach to R/W22.
201400155	04/01/2014	EGCB : Manchester/Barton	After an operational flight, helicopter crew observed a green flare/firework to their RH side during approach, at approx 200ft. The flare/firework dipped down behind the helicopter and faded. Approach continued. No damage to helicopter found on landing.	
201415653	05/11/2014	EGTF : Fairoaks	Firework proximity incident.	With the a/c at approximately 4nm final for R/W06, Fairoaks ATSU advised a/c of fireworks seen on short final. Fireworks observed from the cockpit were low-level, candle-type fireworks and perceived to be of no threat. As the a/c reached 2nm final (600ft) the fireworks seemed to have stopped. At 1nm final a single, large rocket was launched which exploded slightly above the a/c and approximately 80-100m on the port side. The a/c was at 300ft. The fireworks had not been notified to Fairoaks ATSU.