

10 December 2015
Reference: F0002555

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 12 November 2015, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'Please could you tell me how many pilots have been grounded due to suffering from a mental health illness a) this year and b) since April.

Could you also tell me what procedures have changed with regards to mental health checks on pilots since the Germanwings crash in March.'

Our response:

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.

1. Please see the table below which provides data before and after the Germanwings incident on 24 March. The data gathered concerns commercial pilots who have declared a diagnosis of a depressive illness, adjustment disorder, anxiety disorder, or stress related issues during 2015 to the end of August, which is the most recent collated data available. The data includes licence holders transferring from other national authorities. The disorders vary significantly in their level of clinical severity between diagnoses and individuals, and following declaration the CAA requires detailed reports from medical specialists which include those treating the individual and those advising the CAA.

Some of these declarations in 2015 relate to episodes of ill-health that may have occurred historically and were only being reported to the CAA for the first time this year (i.e. not new episodes of ill-health). This data comes from a population of approximately 20,000 commercial pilots in the UK.

Period	Number
1/1/15 to 24/3/2015	26
25/3/2015 to 31/8/2015	56

2. Since the Germanwings incident, we have reminded UK Aeromedical Examiners (doctors certificated by the CAA to undertake medicals for the issue of European Aviation Safety

Civil Aviation Authority

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

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

Agency (EASA) medical certificates) of the necessity of undertaking a mental health assessment at the time of the medical and we have emphasised this at a series of recent refresher training seminars. This is assessed during oversight visits by the CAA to the Aeromedical Examiners.

Regulations regarding the medical fitness of commercial pilots are set by EASA. Following the Germanwings incident EASA set up a Task Force in order to help prevent the recurrence of such events, and we are working closely with EASA on the actions resulting from the Task Force's report, which is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/news/doc/2015-07-17-germanwings-report/germanwings-task-force-final-report.pdf>.

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



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.