

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

6 September 2016  
EIR Reference: E0002876

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 7 August 2016, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

*'Can you tell me how many flight paths there are over WF2 9JT, and as compared with the last 5 & 10 years please'*

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.

The airspace below 3500 feet in the vicinity of WF2 9JT is uncontrolled. As such, it is available to all civil users, e.g. light aircraft, helicopters, hot air balloons etc, and military aviation. When flying in uncontrolled airspace, pilots can determine their own routes according to their requirements, but are not required to notify their intended flight, or gain approval for it, nor would receipt of an air traffic control service be necessary, even if it were available.

Between 3500 and 8500 feet is controlled and used for the separation and sequencing of departures and arrivals for Leeds Bradford International Airport. There are no specific arrival routes in the vicinity of the postcode, but aircraft will be vectored towards the final approach to the airport by air traffic control and will be seen at a variety of locations and altitudes within controlled airspace depending on the prevailing traffic situation. There is a single southbound departure route associated with Leeds/Bradford Airport lying 1.5 miles to the west of the postcode. Aircraft following this route will be at or above 7000 feet as they pass abeam the location.

Controlled airspace continues upwards from 8500 feet, within which is the UK's en-route air traffic structure. A single air traffic route running east/west lies one mile to the south of the postcode with aircraft flying typically above 9000 feet, but often much higher.

Whilst the majority of aircraft will follow the specific routes mentioned above, controllers can legitimately depart from those routes where necessary for safety reasons or where the opportunity arises to provide a more efficient routing to specific aircraft.

**Civil Aviation Authority**

Aviation House Gatwick Airport South Gatwick RH6 0YR [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)  
Telephone 01293 768512 [foi.requests@caa.co.uk](mailto:foi.requests@caa.co.uk)

The airspace structure detailed above is notified in the UK Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP). A check of historic data held by the CAA for September 2011 and January 2007 (the oldest data held) indicates that the routes structure described above has not changed over the period. Changes to the general dispersion of traffic may have occurred over time due to improvements in aircraft performance and the increase in traffic levels experienced in the UK over the years.

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](mailto: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



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.