27 June 2018
EIR Reference: E0003745

Dear [Redacted],

I am writing in respect of your recent request, of 31 May 2018, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

Please provide details of Standard Instrument Departure routes and Standard Instrument Arrival routes that are being considered for London Heathrow under the Airspace review.

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.

You may be aware that there are several airspace change proposals being sponsored by Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL). Further information can be found on our website here: http://www.caa.co.uk/Commercial-industry/Airspace/Airspace-change/Decisions-from-2018/Heathrow-Airport-Limited/

HAL recently held consultations on their emerging proposals and options for the expansion of Heathrow airport and on the related changes to the surrounding airspace. From 17th January 2018 until 28th March 2018, HAL provided the opportunity for people to consider HAL’s emerging proposals in relation to expansion and airspace design principles. HAL have set up a dedicated website www.heathrowconsultation.com which includes specific documents: the Airport Expansion Consultation Document and the Airspace Principles Consultation Document, which summarises the work that HAL has undertaken to date.

HAL are developing a set of principles or ‘rules’ to use when designing the new flight paths. These principles will inform the design of the airspace and be used in the design of the departure and arrival routes.

Stage 1 of the Airspace Change Process requires the Change Sponsor to engage with stakeholders in the development of the design principles. HAL elected to consult with their
stakeholders as a form of engagement during this part of the process. The feedback provided by stakeholders in the recent consultations will inform future consultations, including a second expansion-related consultation that is expected to take place next year. Engagement with stakeholders is a requirement at Stage 1 but the form of that engagement is for the sponsor to decide with a view to satisfying the requirements of CAP 1616.

In Stage 1 – Define, of the CAP 1616, Airspace Design: Guidance on the regulatory process for changing airspace design including community engagement requirements, the change sponsor prepares a statement of need setting out what airspace issue it is setting out to address in Step 1A.

In Step 1B, the change sponsor engages with stakeholders to develop design principles that encompass the safety, environmental and operational criteria and strategic policy objectives that they (the change sponsor) aim for in developing the airspace change proposal. This forms a qualitative structure against which design options can be evaluated.

The CAA will assess HAL’s engagement and the other process requirements of Stage 1 at the Stage 1 ‘Define’ Gateway. HAL’s indicative timeline is aiming towards a Define Gateway date in July 2018. This ACP is in the Stage 1 – Define part of the process. It has not reached the Stage 3 – Consult part of the process.

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 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

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager
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.