

██████████
██████████

20 September 2018
EIR Reference: E0003890

Dear ██████████

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 1 September 2018, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

*'Rochester GA airfield (Kent UK)
Under the Freedom of Information (FOIA) Act 2000. Would you kindly provide copies of all information you hold for any application or request for the construction of new helipads, closure of runways or any alterations to flight path arrangements and permissions approving these.'*

Our response:

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

With regard to information we hold for any application or request for the construction of new helipads or closure of runways we are unable to provide this information to you as it relates to Rochester Airport's approval which was issued under Article 212 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO).

Under Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, information which relates to a particular individual or organisation, and has been supplied to the CAA pursuant to an Air Navigation Order, is prohibited from disclosure. Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA provides that information is exempt if its disclosure is prohibited by, or under, any enactment and Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 is such a statutory prohibition. Accordingly, the obligations of the CAA to comply with Section 23 are unaffected by the FOIA (a copy of this exemption can be found below).

With regard to changes to flight path arrangements and permissions approving these, we do not hold any information. As the information requested is not held by us, Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR applies. A copy of this exception can be found below.

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 www.caa.co.uk

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jade Fitzgerald".

Jade Fitzgerald
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.

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 EU 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).

Regulation 12 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3) and (9), a public authority may refuse to disclose environmental information requested if—

- (a) an exception to disclosure applies under paragraphs (4) or (5); and
- (b) in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(2) A public authority shall apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.

(3) To the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject, the personal data shall not be disclosed otherwise than in accordance with regulation 13.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that—

- (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received;
- (b) the request for information is manifestly unreasonable;
- (c) the request for information is formulated in too general a manner and the public authority has complied with regulation 9;
- (d) the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data; or
- (e) the request involves the disclosure of internal communications

5) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect—

- (a) international relations, defence, national security or public safety;
- (b) the course of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an inquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature;
- (c) intellectual property rights;
- (d) the confidentiality of the proceedings of that or any other public authority where such confidentiality is provided by law;
- (e) the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest;
- (f) the interests of the person who provided the information where that person—
 - (i) was not under, and could not have been put under, any legal obligation to supply it to that or any other public authority;
 - (ii) did not supply it in circumstances such that that or any other public authority is entitled apart from these Regulations to disclose it; and

- (iii) has not consented to its disclosure; or
- (g) the protection of the environment to which the information relates.