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6 February 2018
Reference: F0003554

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 4 January 2018, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'I have been advised to write to you because I am seeking comparative statistics for the number of PPLs issued over the last five years on a year by year basis. It would also be useful to know many of those PPLs have either lapsed or have been renewed but I appreciate that this information may not be possible to obtain.'

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.

The information you have requested can be found in the table below. We were unclear whether you were requesting PPL licences only (e.g. PPL(A), PPL(H) etc.) or whether you were seeking all private licences (e.g. LAPL, PPL, NPPL, BPL etc.). Therefore, we have provided you with both.

	PPLs Issued	All Private Lics Issued
2013	1836	2625
2014	1687	2241
2015	1520	1973
2016	1474	1923
2017	1831	2334

The information in relation to those that have either lapsed or renewed is not held. Licences are valid for life, they do not expire or have the need to be renewed. It is the ratings and medical certificates that need to be renewed.

We also list the number of valid licence holders at the end of each year on the CAA website, which you may find useful
<https://www.caa.co.uk/Data-and-analysis/Approved-persons-and-organisations/Datasets/Licence-holders-by-age-and-sex/>

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
<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.