

██████████
████████████████████

18 April 2018
Reference: F0003647

Dear ██████████

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 19 March 2018, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'As someone that is on the ATPL course at the moment I request the following information in accordance with the above Act for period of pre-changes to the ATPL questioning format, ie, 3 years pre- c.August 2017 and post format changes.

1. *Average mark across all subjects*
2. *Percentage of first time passes across all subjects*
3. *Percentage of first time passes for the entire syllabus*
4. *Number of questions formally challenged*
5. *Number of questions successfully challenged*
6. *Number of questions formally withdrawn and/or amended*
7. *Number of requests for a formal review of an exam*
8. *Number of upheld reviews, ie, no charge has been levied due to successful review'*

Our response:

FOI Questions	Data Provided	
	A	B
1. Average mark across all subjects	85.8%	83.2%
2. Percentage of first time passes across all subjects	78.7%	74.0%
3. Percentage of first time passes for the entire syllabus	34.7%	8.1%
4. Number of questions formally challenged	*	*
5. Number of questions successfully challenged	11	13
6. Number of questions formally withdrawn and/or amended	**	**
7. Number of requests for a formal review of an exam	505	294
8. Number of upheld reviews, i.e., no charge has been levied due to successful review	40	46

Data date range is 06/05/2014 - 15/03/2018

A - First e-examination 06/05/2014 - 13/08/2017

B - Post format changes 14/08/2017 - 15/3/2018

Civil Aviation Authority

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

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

* - We have taken a formal challenge as meaning: a candidate has commented against a question during the e-exam and then requested a full candidate review.

Our database records by candidates, not by questions. We have had a total number of 799 candidate reviews. Of those reviews 86 candidates have successfully challenged questions. To obtain the number of questions successfully challenged by each of those candidates, we have had to manually review each file to determine the number of questions successfully challenged.

For question four, in order to determine the total number of questions formally challenged, whether successful or not, we would have to carry out the same task for each of the remaining 713 reviews. We have spent 10 hours so far in order to answer question five of your request.

Under Section 12(1) of the FOIA, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450.00, which equates to a total of 18 hours of work. We have assessed that the time required to manually review the remaining 713 candidate files would exceed the 18 hours threshold for responding to a request by a considerable margin. A copy of Section 12(1) can be found below.

** - In accordance with the confidentiality agreement we have with EASA, Member States cannot amend or alter questions in the bank, they can only translate into their local language without altering its content. Detected errors in questions are to be submitted to the EASA ECQB team for consideration and awareness on a dedicated form and appropriate action will be taken by EASA. Therefore, your request for the number of questions formally withdrawn and/or amended needs to be submitted to the Agency.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rihanne Stephen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind it.

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.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority-
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.