

[REDACTED]

Date: 11 October 2023
Reference: F0006484

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 19 September 2023, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

Q1. On what date did the CAA become aware that explosive aerosols were stored in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport?

So as to ensure there is no coverup, we are aware, that a CAA Inspector found them by accident on or around May 2023.

Q2. On what date in 2023 did a CAA Inspector find the explosive aerosols in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport?

Q3. Is there any document whatsoever, within the CAA vis a vis CAP 168 compliance and Aerodrome Licensing requirements, that would indicate the CAA was ever aware of aerosols stored in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport until 2023?

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the CAA holds information within scope of the above enquiry; before I address each of your points I think it would be relevant to define some of the terms used within the original enquiry:

Definitions

Find/Found: It is the CAA's position that no information is held as no CAA inspector 'found' aerosols. Aerosols were, therefore, not 'found', but rather during routine pre-licence inspections Spaceport Cornwall informed the CAA of the contents of the Hangar.

Q1. On what date did the CAA become aware that explosive aerosols were stored in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport?

The CAA became aware aerosols (which were not considered as posing an immediate risk) in the week commencing 2nd May 2022 during a pre-licence inspection.

Q2. On what date in 2023 did a CAA Inspector find the explosive aerosols in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport ?

As stated within our response to Questions One *aerosols* were documented within Hangar 404 during a pre licence inspection. With respect to the presumptive element of the phrase 'find' please see the above explanation. During routine pre-licence inspections Spaceport Cornwall informed the CAA of the contents.

Q3. Is there any document whatsoever, within the CAA vis a vis CAP 168 compliance and Aerodrome Licensing requirements, that would indicate the CAA was ever aware of aerosols stored in Hangar 404 Newquay Airport until 2023 ?

The CAA does not hold any documents in relation to CAP 168 with respect to this element of your enquiry.

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:-

FOI.Requests@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 out below. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

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

Freedom of Information Team
Information Rights Specialist

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.