

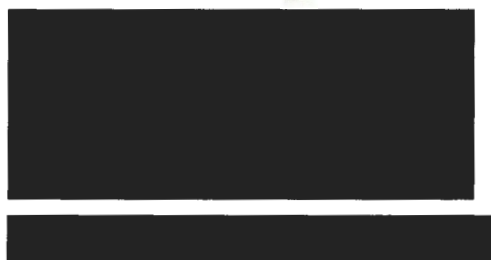


Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2016/01981

E-mail: DSA-enquiries@mod.uk

24 February 2016



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2016 requesting the following information:

"What dispensations have been given by the Military Aviation Authority (MAA) to RAF Northolt since 2010 with reference to aerodrome licensing standards, and how many dispensations are currently in force?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that Dispensations are not issued by the Military Aviation Authority (MAA). However, the MAA does issue Waivers and Exemptions, which release a Regulated Entity from the requirement to comply with a specific element of MAA Regulations on either a temporary or permanent basis. It does not fall within the remit of the MAA to license aerodromes meaning that our output does not make reference to aerodrome licensing standards, as you requested. The MAA Regulatory Document that most closely mirrors the Civil Aviation Authority's Civil Aviation Publication 168: Licensing of Aerodromes is the Manual of Aerodrome Design and Safeguarding (MADS) therefore I have provided a list of Waivers and Exemptions that have been issued to RAF Northolt in relation to compliance with the MADS.

MAA_Exemption_2013_010 – Reduced approach lighting.

MAA_Exemption_2013_013 - Infringement of the runway strip by frangible fencing and de-lethalised curbing.

MAA_Waiver_2014_007 – Absence of green taxiway centreline lights on taxiways greater than 18m width.

MAA_Exemption_2014_018 – Infringement of the runway strip by road and perimeter fence.

MAA_Exemption_2014_025 – Infringement of Obstacle Limitation Surfaces by legacy buildings.

MAA_Exemption_2015_001 – Alternative Acceptable Means of Compliance: Aerodrome Access Signage.

MAA_AWE_2015_129 – Cranes infringing Obstacle Limitation Surfaces.

MAA 01: Military aviation authority (MAA) regulatory policy and MAA 03: Military aviation authority (MAA) regulatory processes, both provide further information on the concept and process of Regulatory Waivers and Exemptions and can be found at the following links.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maa01-military-aviation-authority-maa-regulatory-policy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maa03-military-aviation-authority-maa-regulatory-processes>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

DSA Secretariat