



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2016/ 03600

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 21 March 2016 requesting the following information:

*"Do military helicopter pilots have to make risk assessments of all flights that they carry out.*

*If so, are there any documents available to the general public which give:*

- 1. General guidance about how the risk is assessed when flying over housing;*
- 2. Specific guidance when the housing is under the approach/departure flight.*

*Are there any other generally available documents which regulate helicopter flight paths and housing?*

*Aerodrome site planning and housing*

*Do the MAA have any documents available to the general public which have guidance/regulations about how*

- 1. new military aerodromes*
- 2. the approach/departure flight paths for helicopters for the aerodromes should be built and planned to take into account housing near the proposed aerodrome?"*

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, and I can confirm that the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible by other means).

In the first part of your request you ask if military helicopter pilots have to make risk assessments of all flights that they carry out. Management of risk is an integral part of all defence aviation activity. The Military Aviation Authority (MAA) Regulatory Article (RA) 1210 Ownership and Management of Operating Risk (Risk to Life) describes the principles used in this process and can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-article-ra-1210-ownership-and-management-of-operating-risk-risk-to-life>

In the second part of your request you ask for documents relating to flights over housing. The 2000 Series: Flying Regulations (FLY) sets out the MAA regulations relating to all flying activity and can be found at the following link : <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/2000-series-flying-regulations-fly#2300-series-operation-of-aircraft>

In the third part of your request you ask for documents relating to aerodrome site planning and housing. Chapters 16 & 17 of The Manual of Aerodrome Design and Safeguarding set out the procedures involved in safeguarding the operational environment of military aerodrome and can be found at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/418972/MADS\\_Issue\\_7.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418972/MADS_Issue_7.pdf)

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that MAA 01: MAA Regulatory Policy may also be useful in explaining overarching principles relating to aviation risk assessments. This can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maa01-military-aviation-authority-maa-regulatory-policy>

Further detail can also be found in the MAA Manual of Air Safety found at the following link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/418976/MAS\\_Issue\\_5.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418976/MAS_Issue_5.pdf)

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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