



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2017/3705



20 April 2017

Dear ,

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 March 2017 asking for copies of waiver documents for RAF Kirknewton. You requested the following information:

"In late 2014 or early 2015 2FTS applied for and were granted a waiver under MAA003 in respect of operations at RAF Kirknewton. I request sight of both the application and the waiver."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request may be held.

I attach copies of the application from HQ No 2 Flying Training School and the subsequent Military Aviation Authority (MAA) response. Section 40(2) of the Act has been applied to a small amount of personal information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely



Secretariat 3a1
Air Command



Headquarters No 2 Flying Training School

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Reference: 20140703-2 FTS HoE RA 1026 Airfield
Declaration-O

AVM P Atherton
Dir Ops MAA
Abbeywood (North)
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Date: 3 Jul 14

RA 1026 - REQUEST TO DECLARE 2 FTS HoE AIRFIELDS AS OUT OF SCOPE

Reference: 20140415-22(Trg) Gp RA 1026 Compliance Letter-U

1. At Reference you stated MAA policy for RA 1026 at aerodromes which Volunteer Gliding Squadrons (VGS) are permanently based. Following subsequent discussion on 20 May 14 between MAA and the Assistant Director of Flying Training (ADFT) a way forward was discussed and agreed.
2. As you are aware, the discussions centred around whether the Glider sites should be regarded as 'out of scope' and it was agreed that 2 FTS would formally request to remove specific sites from the scope of RA 1026. Therefore, as HoE for the 2 FTS airfields namely RAF Kenley, RAF Little Rissington and RAF Kirknewton I request that these VGS sites are considered as 'out of scope' for RA 1026.
3. It is proposed that these glider sites will comply with CAP 793 - Safe Operating Practices at Unlicensed Aerodromes as employed by the BGA at civil glider sites. This document provides guidance on all aspects of aerodrome operations and I believe you will find this a suitable policy for 2 FTS to adhere to. Additionally, my staffs are actively engaged to ensure that the Manual of Aerodrome Design and Safeguarding includes appropriate guidance for glider sites. There remains the requirement to create and adopt an appropriate assurance mechanism to support continued use of these VGS sites under alternative compliance arrangements. I intend to meet this requirement through the series of VGS assurance, QA and AFI visits. Moreover, in following the spirit of RA 1026, it is my intention to produce Site Specific Glider Aerodrome Manuals to cover hazards, risks and



the flying environment; these documents should be completed by Aug 14 and prior to VGS activities recommencing.

4. I trust you will find this proposal acceptable, should you have any queries regarding our assurance mechanisms please contact either myself or SO2 Gliding 2 FTS, Sqn Ldr

Original signed

Gp Capt RAFR
OC 2 FTS



Air Vice-Marshal P A Atherton OBE RAF
Director (Operations)

Military Aviation Authority
Juniper 1 #5102,
MOD Abbey Wood (North),
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OC No 2 FTS*

Reference: 20140724-No 2 FTS
Aerodrome Declarations

Copy to:

HQ No 22(Trg) Gp – ADFT*

24 Jul 14

RA 1026 AERODROME OPERATOR – APPROVAL TO DECLARE DEFINED NO 2 FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL (FTS) HEAD OF ESTABLISHMENT (HoE) AERODROMES AS OUT OF SCOPE

1. You sought approval¹ for the aerodromes at RAF Kenley, RAF Little Rissington and RAF Kirknewton to be declared as 'out of scope' in regard to Regulatory Article 1026, Aerodrome Operator.
2. The MAA is content to approve the request; however, the approval will remain valid only as long as:
 - a. Gliding remains the sole aviation activity conducted at these aerodromes. A re-role of any of these aerodromes will result in that aerodrome being defined as back 'in scope'.
 - b. A comprehensive Gliding Aerodrome Manual (GAM) is produced, published and maintained for each of the defined aerodromes. These GAMs must be available to all aerodrome users and must cover the hazards, risks and flying environments particular to each defined aerodrome.
 - c. No 2 FTS is to develop and maintain a comprehensive aerodrome assurance mechanism that ensures a safe operating environment is maintained at the defined aerodromes.
3. All flying operations at these aerodromes should be conducted in accordance with Military Regulatory Publications. In addition, CAP 793, Safe Operating Practices at Unlicensed Aerodromes may be utilised with regard to aerodrome facilities and infrastructure where no appropriate specifications exist within the Manual of Aerodrome Design and Safeguarding.
4. Although there is no requirement to review this approval, any changes to the circumstances on which it has been issued should be notified to the MAA immediately. Lastly, if you require further clarification on the contents of this approval, the MAA stands by to assist and support.



¹ 20140703-2 FTS HoE RA 1026 Airfield Declaration-O