

## What are the Inspector's powers?

The powers of the AAIB's Inspectors – and the framework for reporting and investigating accidents – come from ICAO Annex 13 and Regulation (EU) 996/2010 and the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations 2018.

These provide for the Inspector to:

- call and examine witnesses and to require them to furnish or produce information or evidence relevant to the safety investigation;
- have free access to any relevant information or records held by the owner, the certificate holder of the type design, the responsible maintenance organisation, the training organisation, the operator or the manufacturer of the aircraft, the authorities responsible for civil aviation, EASA and air navigation service providers or aerodrome operators.; to take statements from all such persons as he thinks fit and to require any such person to make and sign a declaration of the truth of the statement made by him;

Information regarding how the AAIB handle personal Information is detailed in our charter on our website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/air-accidents-investigation-branch/about/personal-information-charter>

Thank you for your assistance.

## Inspectors investigating this accident are:

### Further questions?

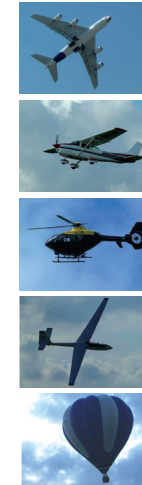
If you need any further information on the progress of the investigation or on any other matter relating to the investigation, contact the Inspectors concerned at:

**Air Accidents Investigation Branch  
Farnborough House  
Berkshire Copse Road  
Aldershot Hants  
GU11 2HH**

**Telephone: 01252 510300  
email: [enquiries@aaib.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@aaib.gov.uk)  
Fax: 01252 376999**

Further information is available on  
our website  
[www.aaib.gov.uk](http://www.aaib.gov.uk)

**THE INVESTIGATION of  
ACCIDENTS or INCIDENTS  
to AIRCRAFT  
WITNESS INTERVIEWS**



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**WITNESS  
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## **What is the AAIB?**

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is the independent aviation accident investigation organisation for the UK. The AAIB is concerned with the investigation of accidents and incidents:

To aircraft from any state when the incident or accident is within the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and British Overseas Territories.

To aircraft registered in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and British Overseas Territories regardless of location.

To UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and British Overseas Territories manufactured aircraft or engines regardless of location.

The purpose of an AAIB investigation is to improve the safety of aviation, and to prevent further accidents from occurring. The AAIB achieves this by identifying the causes of accidents along with any other factors that contributed to the event or made the outcome worse, such as technical or operational factors or those arising from management systems. The AAIB's investigations are entirely independent and are focused solely on safety improvement. The AAIB does not apportion blame or liability nor enforce law or carry out prosecutions.

## **How is the AAIB organised?**

The AAIB is independent of the aviation industry, safety regulators and prosecution bodies. Like the Rail and Marine Accident Investigation Branches (RAIB and MAIB) the AAIB forms part of the Department for Transport, but is functionally independent: the Chief Inspector reports on accident investigations directly to the Secretary of State for Transport.

## **Who carries out the AAIB investigations?**

To carry out its investigations the AAIB has appointed and trained Inspectors recruited from the aviation industry. They are experienced, have a broad

mixture of skills across the industry and have been trained in investigation techniques. All inspectors carry an AAIB identity card which they will show to you as a way of introduction.

## **How AAIB investigates**

Following an accident or serious incident the AAIB will conduct an investigation to gather information about the event. The purpose of such an investigation is to enable the AAIB to determine the causes of the event and whether there may be safety recommendations which would be aimed at improving the safety of aviation and preventing similar accidents. AAIB Inspectors undertaking examinations or investigations may interview those who were involved in the accident or witnesses to it.

## **Why am I being interviewed?**

The sole purpose of your interview is to provide the AAIB Inspector with a record of what you saw of the accident or know of the events leading up to it. The details you give will only be used by the AAIB in its own investigation.

You can, if you wish, have someone else with you at the interview for emotional support. They may take notes, if you want them to, but they will not be allowed to take part in the interview. If you are an employee of any company involved in the accident, this friend cannot be anyone who is there to represent the interests of the company (for example a manager or company legal advisor) rather than to provide support to you. The AAIB's obligation to maintain confidentiality over the contents of statements obtained from witnesses means that it will normally exclude such persons from the interview. There is, however, no need for you to have anyone else present if you do not want to. It is your choice.

## **What about my confidentiality?**

EU regulation 996/2010 requires that certain records *'shall not be made available or used for*

*purposes other than safety investigation' this includes 'all statements taken from persons by the safety investigation authority.'*

The AAIB's investigations are entirely independent from any industry or judicial investigations, and are focused solely on safety improvement. By law, the AAIB must not at any time disclose to anyone else, including the police, the Civil Aviation Authority, your employer or any other enforcing authority, personal details about you in connection with any information that you give us in your statement, unless we are compelled to do so by a High Court Order. If you have any concerns about this, the AAIB Inspector will be happy to explain in more detail before your interview begins.

## **What happens after my interview?**

During the interview the AAIB Inspector will make an audio recording or take notes. If you were able to provide information that the Inspector considers relevant to the investigation, a written statement of the key information may be prepared. You will then be required to sign the statement to confirm the accuracy of the information.

As the AAIB's investigation progresses, the Inspectors may find that they need to speak to you again. If this is the case, a member of the AAIB's investigating team will let you know as soon as possible.

## **What happens to the information I give the AAIB Inspector?**

When the investigation is complete, the AAIB will publish a report on the accident. The report may recommend actions that the AAIB believes are needed to prevent a similar accident and improve aviation safety.

Although the report may make use of the information that you gave to the AAIB Inspector in your interview, it will not identify you by name.