



## Department for Transport

Rachael Griffin  
Bournemouth Coroners Courts  
Town Hall  
Bournemouth  
BH1 6DY

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Director for General Aviation,  
Safety, Skills and CAA

[REDACTED]  
Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

13 May 2022

Dear Ms Griffin.

On behalf of the Department for Transport, I acknowledge safe receipt of your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths arising from the Emiliano Raul Sala inquest and the unfortunate circumstances which led to his death.

I write, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to confirm that, together with the CAA, a review is currently being undertaken of the powers available to them in investigating breaches of aviation regulations and also what powers they would find of assistance in their investigative and enforcement role. It is not possible at this time to say what the outcome of this review will be, only that further time is required to enable this review to be completed and to decide whether any further action needs to be taken and, if so, what form such action will take. Accordingly, we respectfully seek an extension of time until Friday 11 November 2022 in order to provide you with a detailed response in line with your request. If a response is able to be provided sooner then of course we will do so.

We would wish to take this opportunity to reassure you that the Department remains committed to doing what it can to deter and prevent illegal flight activity.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT  
GENERAL AVIATION, SAFETY, SKILLS AND CAA  
AVIATION DIRECTORATE

Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

11 July 2022

Dear Ms Griffin,

Further to recent exchanges of correspondence between us.

In my letter of 23 May 2022 I informed you that, together with the CAA, a review was being undertaken of the powers available to them in investigating breaches of aviation regulations and also what powers they would find of assistance in their investigative and enforcement role. I also requested further time (until 11 November 2022) to enable this review to be completed effectively and to decide whether any further action needed to be taken and, if so, what form such action would take. By an email dated 30 May 2022 you refused my request for an extension of time to provide a detailed response to your requests, and in your letter dated 30 June 2022 you requested a formal written response by 11 July 2022, failing which you required the attendance of a representative from this Department to attend court on 18 July 2022 in person to explain the reasons for the delay.

I again write on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport and respectfully ask that you treat this letter as the Department's formal response to your previous requests in so far as it has been possible to comply with them within the time permitted by you.

1. In relation to your request that the Secretary of State conduct a review of the powers available to the CAA in investigating breaches of aviation regulations, I can confirm that such a review has now been carried out together with the CAA.
2. In relation to your request that the Secretary of State consider meeting with the CAA to establish what powers they would find of assistance in their investigative and enforcement role, I can confirm that such a meeting has taken place between officials in the course of conducting a review of the powers available to the CAA in investigating breaches of aviation regulations.
3. In relation to your request that, in addition to providing details of action taken, this response also contain details of action to be taken, setting out the timetable for action or otherwise explaining why no action is proposed, I can confirm that:
  - (i) As part of its ongoing work to deter and prevent illegal flight activity and to ensure the safety of consumers and other members of the public, the Department (and CAA) are currently considering responses received to the consultation on cost

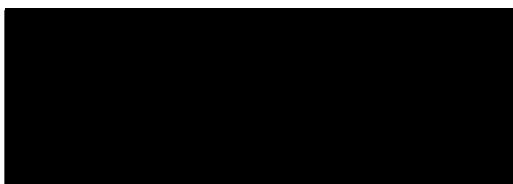
sharing regulations for private pilots, which was launched on 1 December 2021 and ran for a period of six weeks. This work is inextricably linked to the matters with which you are particularly concerned on the basis that pilots and passengers of illegal commercial air transport often collude to present illegal flights as legal cost shared flights. Accordingly, these matters do need to be considered together and as part of the Department's wider aviation safety rule-making programme. We are aware that the CAA has responded to you separately on other aspects of cost share flights and documentation, including making changes to its website to make it easier for members of the public to report information about illegal public transport.

(ii) In parallel with the ongoing work on cost sharing arrangements, the Department is continuing to consider in detail what meaningful changes might be able to be made, in both policy and legal terms and, perhaps, in other respects, in order that the CAA is able to investigate suspected illegal flight activity more effectively. As you will appreciate the aviation regulatory framework is extensive and any changes to the law require careful consideration and justification. This or any other form of action may well require discussions with and the cooperation of other government departments and the police, in addition to further public consultation. It is therefore simply not possible as matters stand to provide you with further details about precisely what action might be taken nor the timeframe for such action, but I can reassure you that the Department remains committed to preventing future deaths and accidents from arising as a result of illegal flight activity by taking whatever action it considers necessary.

(iii) The Department will continue to work closely with the CAA, who also recognise that no single measure or type of action is likely to provide a complete solution to this particular problem, and like them the Department intends to provide you with a further update in due course.

I trust this response meets all of your requests insofar as the Department is able to at this time, and I take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and forbearance in all the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

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