



Department for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

Great Minster House
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21 August 2023

Dear Mr Parsley,

I am writing to acknowledge, accept and respond to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths concerning your investigation into the death of Mr Peter John Walker and update on action taken by the CAA to implement the safety recommendations made to them by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB).

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has accepted the recommendations issued by the AAIB and has commenced work to address them. This includes a project to look at the current Pilot Medical Declaration (PMD) system and whether it is fit for purpose. As part of this, the CAA has committed to the following:

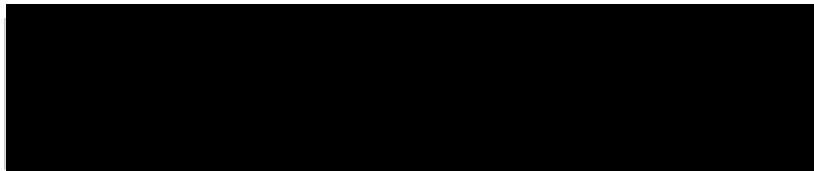
1. Updating the CAA's PMD webpage with supplementary information for pilots. This will also include a link to information on the UK Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) website;
2. Updating the PMD declaration form to include additional guidance for pilots;
3. Ensuring guidance is available to medical professionals to promote awareness of the medical standards required by the PMD scheme by adapting guidance which already exists for Aero Medical Examiners (AMEs) for wider use;
4. CAA to build on their relationship with DVLA to review their administrative approach to PMD and adapt their 'False and Non-Declaration of Medical Certificate Holders' policy to include the PMD scheme;
5. Introducing PMD 'spot checks' to ensure declarations are being made correctly.

In addition, the CAA will be reviewing the appropriateness of continued use of revalidation solely by experience for holders of UK PPLs with microlight class ratings issued before 1 February 2008. The outcome of this review will feed into the ongoing Licensing and Training Simplification project which is considering changes to the system of pilot licensing in the UK following our withdrawal from the European Union.

Work is ongoing on the measures above and may require the CAA to consult with industry. In addition, they have confirmed that they have received positive acknowledgement from the AAIB of their plan to address the four safety recommendations. The CAA has committed to provide an update to the AAIB by Q4 2023 and I have asked to be kept updated on progress.

I consider this action, on the part of CAA, to adequately address the recommendations made by the AAIB, though I note that the AAIB will continue to monitor progress. I do not therefore believe that, in light of CAA's response, further intervention is needed by my Department to prevent further deaths, such as through the exercise of Civil Aviation Act 1982 powers to direct the CAA. I have requested that officials monitor the CAA's work on this and provide support as needed to ensure the AAIB recommendations are adequately addressed. This will be done as part of a clear governance process under the UK's State Safety Programme for Aviation.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT