

14 May 2012
FOIA reference: E0001321

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent applications, of 13 April 2012 and subsequent email of 16 April 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"Please can you supply me real-world noise measurement information on the comparative noise performance of A380 planes with other major aircraft when landing at Heathrow 27L/27R - particularly under the flight path between 5 and 10 miles from touchdown.

Subsequent email:

Since making this request, I have become aware of the existence of the February 2012 ERCD report:

http://www.heathrowairport.com/static/Heathrow_Noise/Downloads/PDF/20120411-Final_ERCD_A380_Report_1106_2.pdf

This answers most of my questions and seems to confirm that there is not much difference in aircraft landing noise between the A380 and 747 when you are as far from the airport as Chiswick ; indeed some variants of the A380 are noisier than some variants of the 747 there.

However, I would be grateful if you could provide information from any other relevant temporary noise monitor sites in West London (Barnes / Putney/ Fulham/ Hammersmith?).

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, we are pleased to be able to provide the information below.

The CAA's Environmental Research and Consultancy Department routinely collect and analyse noise measurements taken from the Noise and Track Keeping (NTK) systems installed at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Table 1 (below) represents a sample of the

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average measured noise levels of Heathrow westerly arrivals recorded by the Heathrow NTK system during February 2012.

During that month, there were two mobile (temporary) NTK noise monitors deployed under the westerly approach paths; one in Richmond, approximately 8.5 km from touchdown on runway 27L, and the other in Barnes, approximately 13.9 km from touchdown on runway 27R. Results have been provided separately for a range of different aircraft types, in both Sound Exposure Level (SEL) and maximum sound level (Lmax) (see ERCD Report 0904 for further details on the different noise metrics: <http://www.caa.co.uk/ercdreport0904>).

Table 1: Average measured noise levels of Heathrow westerly arrivals, February 2012

Aircraft Type (ANCON Category)	SEL, dBA						Lmax, dBA					
	Richmond monitor (Runway 27L)			Barnes monitor (Runway 27R)			Richmond monitor (Runway 27L)			Barnes monitor (Runway 27R)		
	Mean	SD	Count	Mean	SD	Count	Mean	SD	Count	Mean	SD	Count
B733	82.4	1.2	90	78.6	1.9	95	72.7	1.5	90	68.0	2.3	95
B736	83.5	1.5	133	79.4	2.8	128	73.1	1.8	133	68.2	3.2	128
B738	82.8	1.5	144	79.0	2.7	116	72.5	1.6	144	67.8	2.8	116
B744G	88.3	0.9	39	84.2	1.6	35	77.3	0.9	39	72.8	1.7	35
B744P	88.2	1.5	57	83.2	1.5	64	77.6	1.3	57	72.0	1.5	64
B744R	88.3	1.0	353	83.0	1.4	442	77.5	1.1	353	71.4	1.6	442
B757E	83.4	1.3	85	77.3	2.6	83	72.4	1.4	85	65.9	2.5	83
B763G	84.2	2.2	77	80.1	2.3	89	73.9	2.4	77	69.5	2.9	89
B763P	84.1	1.7	51	78.8	1.7	81	73.2	1.6	51	67.3	1.7	81
B763R	85.5	1.1	236	78.8	1.7	245	74.4	1.1	236	67.1	1.9	245
B764	85.1	2.4	107	79.2	2.4	45	74.3	2.5	107	67.6	2.5	45
B772G	84.6	1.3	246	78.1	2.0	235	73.3	1.5	246	66.2	2.2	235
B772P	85.6	0.8	33	80.4	2.1	46	74.8	1.0	33	69.9	2.6	46
B772R	85.5	1.2	238	79.2	2.7	243	74.3	1.5	238	68.0	3.5	243
B773G	86.4	1.7	210	80.0	2.8	214	75.5	1.9	210	68.2	2.8	214
EA319C	81.9	1.6	185	79.0	1.7	176	71.6	1.6	185	67.9	2.0	176
EA319V	80.8	1.6	1039	78.1	2.3	1111	70.4	1.6	1039	67.2	2.5	1111
EA320C	82.6	1.5	620	79.0	2.0	674	72.3	1.6	620	67.9	2.3	674
EA320V	80.3	1.6	1048	77.9	2.4	1132	70.1	1.5	1048	66.9	2.6	1132
EA321C	82.8	1.7	201	79.0	2.0	185	72.6	1.8	201	67.8	2.0	185
EA321V	80.8	1.8	483	77.6	2.0	506	70.4	1.7	483	66.3	2.1	506
EA33	85.8	1.2	191	82.5	2.3	212	75.1	1.6	191	71.1	2.8	212
EA34	85.6	1.1	79	81.6	2.2	86	74.7	1.1	79	69.7	1.9	86
EA346	86.6	0.9	195	82.6	1.8	201	75.4	0.9	195	70.6	1.8	201
EA38GP	86.1	0.9	21	82.4	2.2	21	74.8	1.1	21	70.4	2.2	21
EA38R	87.2	0.9	44	83.6	1.8	34	75.7	1.2	44	71.4	2.1	34

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR

mark.stevens@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

Should you wish to make further Freedom of Information requests, please use the e-form at <http://www.caa.co.uk/foi>.

Yours sincerely

Rick Chatfield
FoIA & EIR Case Manager

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.