

THE FACTS ABOUT

# AIR DISPLAY CHARGES CONSULTATION

February 2016

CAA FACTSHEET

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Like most regulators, we are not funded by the taxpayer and are required by law to recover the costs of our services from the aviation industry. Each year we consult on the proposed charges industry will have to pay for our services, providing an opportunity for interested parties to outline their views.

On 1 February 2016 we launched our consultation on the proposed fees and charges for 2016/2017. This year's consultation is set out in two parts, with charges for our regulation of air displays outlined in a separate consultation. Our current proposals include increasing the charges for our air display regulation work and this is based on two important factors:

1. The regulation of air displays has historically been subsidised by other aviation industry charge payers and ultimately their passengers. This means the charges paid by the air display sector have not accurately reflected the true cost of the CAA's work. As we are required to recover the costs for all our work, this situation is not sustainable. The changes are not aimed at recovering historic under recovery but at ensuring future work is correctly funded.

2. The charges reflect the increased costs of implementing the additional safety activities outlined in the recent air display action report. These are important measures that we believe are vital to further enhance the safety of UK civil air displays.

## **What the proposed charges mean for air show prices**

Our research shows that the proposed fees to cover the cost of our regulatory and safety work would mean an increase of just a few pence per ticket for some small air display events and less than 20 pence for one of the largest based on the most recent attendance figures. It is possible some events would need to increase prices by more than this, but even in these instances the increase in cost would be pence, rather than pounds.

The current cost of entry to these shows for the general public can be in the region of £20 to £50 per day.

## **Making air displays safer – the CAA's air display safety review**

The charges included in the consultation also reflect safety actions coming out of the CAA's ongoing review of air display safety. This review was launched immediately after the tragic accident at the Shoreham Air Show in August 2015 and is considering all aspects of the safety oversight of UK civil air displays.

In January, as part of the review, we published an action report that included a series of measures to further enhance safety at UK civil air displays. The safety measures include enhancing:

- The requirements for permissions to hold a display and requiring earlier notification to the CAA;
- Training and checks for those responsible for overseeing air displays;
- Requirements relating to the experience, skill and health of display pilots; and
- The role of the Display Authorisation Examiners (DAEs) who oversee display pilots.

Measures put in place in the immediate aftermath of the accident at Shoreham – including enhanced risk assessments, grounding of Hawker Hunter aircraft on the civil register and restricting ex-military jets operating over land to fly-pasts only - will remain in place until the AAIB's investigation has concluded. At that point the measures will be reviewed alongside any findings or recommendations made.

## **Future air displays**

We welcome the opportunity to discuss plans for upcoming air displays with their organisers and to work together to ensure they operate safely.

Hundreds of events are planned for 2016, although a small number have confirmed they will not be taking place this year. This will be for a number of reasons specific to each event and some of these events had announced they were to be cancelled before we had published our air

display charges consultation or the action report.

We understand that people feel passionately about air displays and we are committed to working with industry to make sure these events continue and are even safer for the millions that attend them every year.

With the consultation open until 29 February 2016, we do not believe there is a need for air shows to cancel

their events based purely on these proposals. We urge stakeholders responding to the consultation to provide all relevant evidence and information, which will be reviewed carefully before we make our final decision.

We also welcome the opportunity to discuss with air show organisers any questions or concerns they have around their planned activity for 2016.



Updates on the consultation and more information will be available from [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk). You can also **follow @UK\_CAA on Twitter** for more information and updates.