



APPLICATION FOR A JUDICIAL REVIEW GRANTED BY HIGH COURT

Lasham Gliding Society's application to the High Court for leave to apply for a Judicial Review has been granted by a High Court judge.

In October this year, following the CAA's decision in July to implement a large and unreasonable amount of controlled airspace for Farnborough aerodrome in the busy south-east of England, Lasham filed a claim in the High Court for leave to apply for a Judicial Review of what it believes is a flawed and unlawful decision, which will badly affect it as well as many other General Aviation pilots and organisations. This important judgement means that the High Court has given permission for the case to go ahead because it considers that the claim meets the threshold of arguability.

This is good news for Lasham, which along with other aviation bodies has been opposing the imposition of what they consider to be an unreasonable and disproportionately large amount of controlled airspace that would have a significant and negative impact on safety, and on Lasham's operations and financial health.

To help fight this case, Lasham has set up a fighting fund and asks all those supporting it to contribute what they can. The target for the fund is £100,000 and so far, £43,000 has been raised. For details click on <https://www.lashamgliding.com/pages/airspace-campaign>

Lasham is probably the largest gliding operation in the world and since 1951 has built itself into one of the very best organisations for training pilots and as a world-class centre for recreational aviation. It also the base for several other aviation-related commercial operations.

For further information contact John McCullagh on john@mccullagh.biz

4 December 2018



CONTROLLED AIRSPACE AROUND FARNBOROUGH AIRFIELD

UPDATE



On 10 October we filed our case for a judicial review with the Court. It consisted of 183 pages with 3000 supporting documents in 13 volumes.

If the CAA's decision is not challenged, we believe that it would result in inefficient airspace that gives rise to obvious safety risks for gliders and other aircraft. A precedent may be set for the way that all future decisions about lower airspace are made and that the Class G airspace available to general aviation could be increasingly restricted throughout the country without proper analysis or justification.

The Society has the capability to bring a case of this size against a government agency like the CAA. However, our campaign will benefit the whole General Aviation community as well as residents under some of the proposed flight-paths. We are therefore aiming to raise at least £100,000 externally towards the cost of fighting our case. A running total of the funds raised so far is on our home page.

We are hoping to be granted leave for the judicial review by the end of the year.

John McCullagh
Honorary Treasurer
15 November 2018



PRESS RELEASE CONTROLLED AIRSPACE AROUND FARNBOROUGH AIRFIELD

On 11 July, the CAA published its decision granting a large area of new controlled airspace around Farnborough Airfield. This decision follows an airspace change proposal process initiated by TAG Farnborough Airport.

Lasham Gliding Society is strongly opposed to the CAA's decision. Contrary to the statements made in the CAA decision document, Lasham Gliding Society considers that the decision to introduce new controlled airspace has not been justified by the CAA: it will create a choke point, it does not represent an efficient use of the airspace and it does not properly or reasonably balance the needs of all users. The consequence of the implementation of this large volume of controlled airspace, at the request of a small airfield which has around 28,000 annual (non-public) movements, will be to displace many times more transiting flights and to cause significant congestion of general aviation movements outside the controlled airspace. Lasham Gliding Society, the world's biggest gliding club with around twice the number of annual movements of Farnborough Airport, will be in this bottleneck. This gives rise to obvious safety risks for gliders and other aircraft.

The CAA has not published any data or evidence to support its decision that the new arrangements will be safe (or that the existing arrangements are not safe), and it has not published any analysis of the impact on Lasham Gliding Society or general aviation traffic in the choke points. Further, the measures suggested by the CAA for mitigating the serious safety risk are inadequate and ill-conceived.

In the course of the decision-making process, Lasham Gliding Society in partnership with the British Gliding Association and the General Aviation Alliance, engaged with the CAA in meetings and in writing to explain the problems with the changes proposed by TAG Farnborough. The same parties also submitted a practical and safe alternative airspace design at the request of the CAA. Notwithstanding this, the CAA has proceeded to approve TAG Farnborough's proposal with only minor modifications.

In these circumstances, Lasham Gliding Society has taken legal advice and will be writing formally to the CAA asking it to withdraw its decision. If the CAA does not withdraw the decision, or provide information properly justifying it, Lasham Gliding Society will consider all options including a legal challenge. If you are interested in providing financial support to the Society to help it to challenge the CAA's decision, please contact the office at Lasham.

Mike Clarke
Chairman, Lasham Gliding Society Ltd

24 August 2018