

Airspace infringements: review and actions process

July 2017

Introduction

An airspace infringement is the unauthorised entry of an aircraft into notified airspace. This includes controlled airspace, prohibited or restricted airspace, active danger areas, aerodrome traffic zones, radio mandatory zones or transponder mandatory zones.

An airspace infringement has the potential to be a serious safety incident and the number of infringements has not declined despite efforts by the CAA, air navigation service providers (ANSPs) and General Aviation representative bodies. Infringements are usually caused by inadequate pre-flight planning, poor airmanship or insufficient pilot knowledge. The purpose of the CAA's airspace infringement review and actions process is to ensure that reported infringements are reviewed and assessed in a consistent way and appropriate actions are identified to prevent recurrence and to maintain pilot competence in UK airspace.

Airspace infringement reporting

The CAA receives reports of airspace infringements from a number of sources, but they primarily originate from ANSPs such as the notified controlling authority or air traffic service unit responsible for the airspace that has been infringed. Following an airspace infringement, an ANSP may take two complementary courses of action:

- **Report submission:** The ANSP submits a Mandatory Occurrence Report (MOR) to the CAA, detailing the infringement. The ANSP may also submit a separate Alleged Breach of Air Navigation Legislation (ABANL) report to the CAA's Investigations and Enforcement Team.
- **ANSP procedures:** An ANSP's safety management system will often include its own safety investigation and follow up procedure to be adopted in the case of an airspace infringement event. This will involve a Post Infringement Questionnaire as part of a two-way learning exercise. The information obtained from the questionnaire will be shared with the CAA.

Review process

The following pages illustrate the process by which the CAA reviews and assesses reports of airspace infringements and determines appropriate actions. The process may end at different points depending on the information available and responses received, and/or the outcome of remedial measures.

Process diagram

