

**SAFETY REGULATION GROUP  
ENGINEER LICENSING**

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Our ref: 9/93/10/35/11

7 March 2000

Mr C P Ebbs  
13 Millbank  
Upper Cam  
Dursley  
Glos GL11 5PT

Dear Mr Ebbs

**REFERENCE LETTER : C JONES, 11 JUNE 1998**

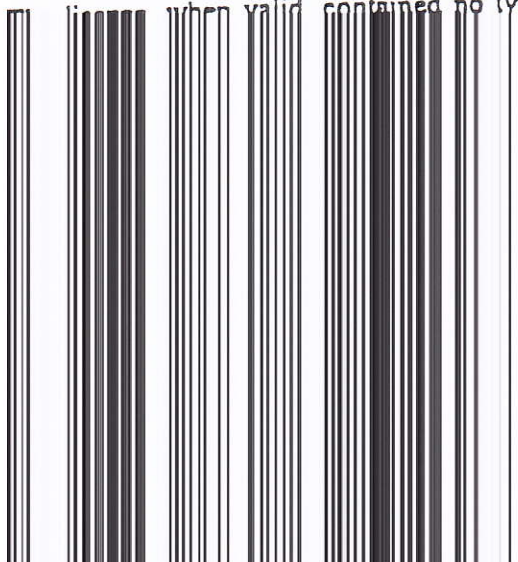
With reference to your letter dated 28 February 2000 which included as an attachment a copy letter from Superintendent Colin Jones, South Wales Police to John Smith, M.P. This letter in turn makes reference to a letter sent by Mr Kirk to Mr Smith. The CAA has not had sight of the letter from Mr Kirk that is referred to and therefore can only offer comment accordingly.

I cannot find any record of what was discussed with the South Wales Police in respect of your case. I am aware that Mr Manton, who was at the time Deputy Head of Engineer Licensing and dealing with the case generally, was contacted by the South Wales Police for information. I also believe that the police may have spoken to our Aviation Regulation and Enforcement Branch although I cannot confirm this. Mr Manton offered comment in general terms on your case, in accordance with our normal departmental practice and as constrained under the provisions of Section 23 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. Such comment would preclude the disclosure of licensing related information of a confidential nature.

Mr Manton cannot recall the specific details discussed but would have likely confirmed the following :

- You were the holder of an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's Licence No. 27489 which expired on 29 January 1997.
- The licence held lapsed because you had not renewed it nor made application for such renewal.

When valid contained no type ratings and as such you could not make any



We would not hide the fact that we were investigating certain complaints. Such information appears to have been freely available through Mr Kirk amongst others. It is not however the role of Engineer Licensing to initiate a prosecution action, that is a matter for our Aviation Regulation and Enforcement Branch to investigate and our legal branch to consider. Our response in the event of any query regarding prosecution would be to simply divert the question to the appropriate person.

The matter of medical confidentiality is one which the CAA takes seriously. The letter from your consultant Dr Skogstad was received on 7 December 1998, almost 6 months after the date of the letter from Superintendent Jones to Mr Smith. I can also assure you that our Medical department have not disclosed any medical details of your case to me at any time. I would also point out that the meeting you refer to, where you requested that certain matters be kept confidential, took place on 23 November 1998. This is again a substantial period after the letter from Superintendent Jones. I do not believe therefore that the CAA has broken medical confidentiality in this matter.

It is a fact that the CAA decided not to pursue any prosecution, the letter from Mr Gibson dated 23 June 1998 confirmed this. It is not however true that you never had the chance to reply to the issues arising from our investigations. You refused to be interviewed by the investigating officer, Mr Murphy. You were interviewed twice by Engineer Licensing and on the first occasion walked out before the interview could be concluded. The second interview likewise failed to determine a conclusion to the matter.

With regard to your specific questions I would offer the following :

1. I do not have any records, nor information that gives any detail of what was said to the South Wales Police, nor when.
2. The information requested is provided in the text above.
3. The information which we would consider appropriate to give out is highlighted above. It would observe confidentiality, refuse to comment on prosecution action that had not been determined at that time and would confirm that the licence had lapsed through not being renewed. I can only assume that Mr Manton observed our standard practice and policy on disclosure in the absence of any information to the contrary.
4. Should you wish to pursue the matter further, I suggest you contact our legal branch.

Engineer Licensing has been very careful in its handling of this case in view of the various allegations made. I would assure you that we have taken extensive steps to ensure that inappropriate comment was not made to third parties.

Yours sincerely