

6 May 2013

Ref: C-19825-01 DF1425595

DW1263229-0

Irene King
Chief Executive
Aviation Industry Association
PO Box 2096
Wellington 6140

Dear Irene

Fatal Accident Investigation off the coast of Kawhia

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May inquiring about the reasons and costs associated with the Authority's current safety investigation activities of an accident involving an American registered aircraft. As you state the aircraft was on the American register, being operated on a private flight within New Zealand's territorial limits. You are also correct in stating the safety investigations are generally paid for from the passenger levies. While the aircraft was on the US register, the aircraft was predominantly operated and maintained within New Zealand. Consequently, we have some 'oversight' interest.

Expenses associated with the recovery of the aircraft were met by the New Zealand Defence Force. Other costs associated with some elements of the investigation are likely to be met from the insurers of the aircraft (a relatively common practice in similar circumstances). Thus, the cost exposure to the CAA relates to the time our investigators are engaged in the investigation. At this stage, costs associated with the investigation are within our normal budgeted activities.

Our primary reason for investigating the accident is simply to understand possible causes of the accident in order to enhance safety. We are specifically interested in identifying any actions that we may need to take within the NZ civil aviation system. In the context of our role as part of the international aviation system, we are also keeping the NTSB briefed on particular aspects of the investigation. It is not appropriate for me to discuss these elements at this point in time.

I trust this answers the majority of your questions.

Yours sincerely



John Kay
Acting Chief Executive