



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Mana Rererangi Tūmatanui o Aotearoa

S-I225-04 13/OIR/0133 (DW1262923-0)

7 May 2013

Irene King
Aviation Industry Association of NZ (Inc)
PO Box 2096
Wellington
6140

Dear Irene

Request for information pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982

I refer to your letter dated 8 April 2013 requesting information relating to the background and development of the CAA's policy in respect of the medical fitness of pilots due to pregnancy.

The CAA's current policy with regard to pregnant pilots is the result of a number of factors, including:

- The standards and policies of the regulatory medical system that was inherited in 2001;
- The statutory changes (domestic and international) that have occurred since then;
- Our understanding of the general medical aspects of pregnancy and the wider published literature relating to pregnancy

However I am advised that the CAA does not hold any documentation regarding the evolution of the current policy. Our understanding is that earlier standards and policies were silent on pregnancy (initially because in the very early days of aviation only men were licenced to fly), and that subsequently various stances have evolved based on the general premise that the middle trimester represents the lowest risk and that the first and third trimesters represent higher risks.

Based on this understanding the CAA's regulatory focus has been to prioritise third-party safety, particularly that of fare-paying passengers.

A publicly available information sheet that outlines the CAA's current policy approach is available online at the following link:

http://www.caa.govt.nz/medical/Med_Info_Sheets/MIS010.pdf

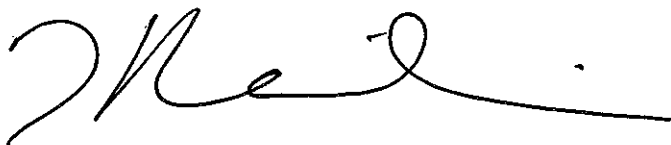
As mentioned we do not hold any documentation with regard to the background and development of the current policy with regard to pregnant pilots. Therefore your request is formally refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

The current policy has provided the basis for any decisions regarding pregnant pilots for most of the last decade and has not been subject to any formal review. However the CAA has recently engaged with a tertiary academic institution with the intention of having them undertake a review of the medical evidence relating to pregnancy. We anticipate that any such review will inform any future decisions to alter our current policy with regard to pregnancy.

Pursuant to section 19(b) of the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(3) to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of our refusal.

Please contact me by email oa@caa.govt.nz or by telephone 04 560 9400 if you have any queries regarding your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salote Raiwalui', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Salote Raiwalui
Solicitor Rules Drafting