

Chair & Chief Executive's Office



**GAA Coalition**

By email: [GAACoalition@protonmail.com](mailto:GAACoalition@protonmail.com)

22 June 2022

Dear GAA Coalition

Thank you for your emails of 9 June to colleagues at the CAA regarding Covid-19 vaccinations and Class 1-3 medical certificate holders. I am replying on their behalf. Please see below for our response to each of your questions in turn.

**1. Please explain how the Civil Aviation Authority assesses Covid-19 vaccines' suitability for use by Class 1-3 medical certificate holders since their roll out.**

The approval process for vaccines in the UK, which includes a determination of their efficacy and safety, is undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The CAA medical department continues to monitor governmental guidance and the scientific literature on Covid-19 vaccines. This includes the results of the COVID vaccine trial data and subsequent surveillance.

**2. Does the Civil Aviation Authority collect reports of Covid-19 vaccine effects, side-effects and severe adverse events (including suspected or proven resultant death) occurring in any Class 1-3 medical holder and if it does please explain how this data is collected?**

This data would normally be captured within the MHRA Yellow Card reporting system. There is a sub-section of the Yellow Card website for Covid-19 vaccines. The CAA does not specifically collect this data, however if an aeromedical examiner (AME) has made an individual unfit due to COVID vaccination effects, they will record this in the CAA medical records system.

**3. Is the Civil Aviation Authority aware of any Covid-19 vaccine-induced adverse events in any UK Class 1-3 medical certificate holder? If so, how many such events is the Civil Aviation Authority aware of and how does the CAA categorise their severity?**

Not directly. If an AME has made an individual unfit due to COVID vaccination effects, they will record this in the CAA medical records system. Severity would not be formally graded other than whether the applicant had been assessed as fit to fly or not.

**4. Does the Civil Aviation Authority keep data relating to the numbers of Class 1-3 medical certificates that:**

- **are held;** Yes, but this will vary daily
- **temporarily/permanently suspended;** we do not suspend medical certificates. Applicants are either fit or unfit.

**in any given year?** Yes, we hold data for the numbers of Class 1-3 medical certificate holders who were made unfit in each year dating back to 1999.

**5. Holders of Class 1-3 medical certificates are expected to self-report medical issues to the Civil Aviation Authority, except where issues are actually detected during a Civil Aviation Authority medical examination. How and when does the Civil Aviation Authority, via its medical system, become aware of certificate holders' medical issues if they do not self-report those issues to the Civil Aviation Authority?**

In accordance with the Aircrew Regulation and Air Navigation Order, applicants must declare medical history to their AME at the time of the medical examination and at other times when they know or suspect they are unfit to exercise licence privileges. On occasion, third parties make reports on individuals to the CAA which are investigated.

**6. On an average, per yearly basis, approximately what proportion of all flights that the Civil Aviation Authority is responsible for regulating within UK airspace are conducted by multi-person crews and what proportion are conducted by single pilot?**

You can find our available aviation data, statistics, and report here: [Data and analysis | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/Data-and-analysis). We do not hold data for the number of general aviation flights operated by single pilots.

If you have any questions about our data sets, please contact [enquiries@caa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@caa.co.uk).

**7. Does the Civil Aviation Authority hold data documenting on a yearly basis passenger and crew medical:**

- incidents;
- accidents; and
- diversions of any aircraft inside UK airspace and/or on G-registered aircraft globally?

For access to this data, you would need to complete an [SRG1605 application](#). Please note this data can only be released if you can demonstrate that the information will be used to help to maintain or improve aviation safety (see section five of SRG1605).

**8. How many Class 1-3 medical certificate holders has the CAA authorised to engage in:**

- any phase 1, 2 or 3 clinical trial for any Covid-19 drug, treatment, therapy, protocol or vaccine; and/or
- any form of trial, protocol or evaluation of "mix-and-match" Covid-19 boosters use e.g. Pfizer vaccination followed by another manufacturer's vaccine?

The CAA does not authorise medical certificate applicants to participate or not participate in vaccine research.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

*Philip Clarke*

Philip Clarke  
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