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Subject: FW: Use of 121.5 for Training Calls
Date: 13 August 2018 at 11:29
To: GAP External 2015 GAPExternal2015@caa.co.uk

PT

Dear GA Partnership,

Under AOB at our last meeting, Dai Whittingham, as Chair of the UK FSC, raised a concern with the use of 121.5 for training calls and the potential for Commercial crews to turn down 121.5. I have followed up with colleagues in both Flight Operations and Airspace Regulation. The use of 121.5 is captured within the CAA's Regulatory Safety Management System (RSMS) within the AAA Safety Review Panel (SRP). The short version of which is:

1. Discussed in detail at recent AAA SRP and the scenario being articulated by Flight Operations Liaison Group (FOLG) members is recognised but it is important to focus on the safety risk which were considered in the SRP as follows.
2. Airborne interception, a/c gets shot down, 3 airborne interceptions last year, no issues.
3. Missed real emergency call by aircraft, loss of life due late response to genuine emergency: no data.
4. What else, it's no clear.

Based on the information thus far the risk is being tolerated, this can be reviewed either routinely or as new information comes to light. As well as the safety risks, there are of course business risks associated with operators being charged for interceptions but that is different to the safety risk. Flight Operations are represented on the UK FSC and Jon Round will brief the FOLG, given that I see no need to generate a new / additional workstream from the GA Partnership and/or the GA SRP as it is being handled elsewhere within the CAA.

Yours Tony

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