

RECEIVED 14 FEB 1973

LOS/1002/1/Ops

Royal Air Force
Lossiemouth
Morayshire
IV31 6SD

Lossiemouth 2121 Ext 7

E F Trowbridge Esq
Town Clerk & Chamberlain
Town Clerk's Chambers
High Street
DORNOCH

5 B

9 February 1973

Per Sir

FLYING IN DORNOCH AREA

Thank you for your letter of 7 February together with enclosures concerning flying of aircraft over Dornoch. As Officer Commanding Operations Wing at RAF Lossiemouth I am writing on behalf of the Station Commander.

First I must point out that the aircraft complained of are not from this station as at the present time we have no jet aircraft operating here. However as you mentioned in your letter, the Royal Air Force has now assumed responsibility for Operations at Tain Range. I am able to assure you that the procedure and circuit pattern flown over this range has not changed since the departure of the Royal Navy in August last year. Investigation of orders to pilots show that the circuit pattern flown by RAF aircraft is identical to that referred to and agreed in your Council Minute dated 14 January 1960.

Details of the incident have been forwarded to the Ministry of Defence authority which deals with low flying complaints. The address, should you require it, is:

HQ P & SS (UK)
Low Flying Complaints Cell (RAF)
Government Buildings
Bromyard Avenue
Acton
London W3

The Complaints Cell will no doubt be writing to you on this matter, in the near future.

D B Hives

D B HIVES
Wing Commander
for Officer Commanding

Our Ref: 5B

7th February, 1973.

Robert MacLennan, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
LONDON,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. MacLennan,

I enclose herewith copy letter sent today to the Commanding Officer, R.A.F., Lossiemouth regarding the flying of aircraft over Dornoch together with copy of minute of the Town Council's meeting with representatives of the Fleet Air Arm on 14th January, 1960 when it was agreed that aircraft would follow a set circuit to avoid flying over Dornoch. A copy of the Town Council's letter to Sir David Robertson who represented the area in Parliament is also included for your information.

It would appear that aircraft are not following the agreed circuit and accordingly it would be appreciated if your services could be obtained in bringing the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Yours faithfully,



Town Clerk.

Our Ref: 5B

7th February, 1973.

The Officer Commanding,
R.A.F. Station,
Lossiemouth,
Morayshire.

Dear Sir,


The Town Council at their meeting on 6th February, 1973 referred to complaints regarding the flying of aircraft over Dornoch, and have instructed me to draw the matter to your attention.

The flight of aircraft when Lossiemouth was used by the Fleet Air Arm was restricted to the circuit originally agreed to in 1960 - a copy of minute of a meeting between the Town Council and the Fleet Air Arm is enclosed for your information, dated 14th January, 1960. A copy letter dated 25th January, 1960 to Sir David Robertson the local Member of Parliament at that time is also enclosed.

It would appear that aircraft from your station is flying over Dornoch and not complying with the agreement arrived at, accordingly it would be appreciated if the position can be rectified by arranging the aircraft involved to follow the circuit adopted in 1960. I might add that some concern has been caused with regard to the effect the flying over the Town might have on the Cathedral.

A copy of this letter and contents have been sent to Mr. Robert MacLennan, M.P., for his information.

Yours faithfully,



Town Clerk.

Encl.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-930 7022

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

AF/PS 68/73

6th March 1973

Robert

Thank you for your letter of 13th February concerning the enclosed correspondence received from the Town Clerk of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch, who alleges that aircraft using the Tain Air Weapons Range have departed from the circuit agreed by the Royal Navy in 1960 and have overflowed the town itself.

As you probably know, operations at the Range are now under the control of the Royal Air Force. I can therefore give you my firm assurance that the agreement made in 1960 still stands and that we have no intention of departing from it. Should any overflights of Dornoch occur in the future, perhaps the Town Clerk would like to inform my officials, quoting the date and time of the incident and any other details available, so that the matter may be fully investigated. The address for such a report is "Ministry of Defence, S4f(Air), Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB". Unfortunately, in the absence of such information no detailed investigation of the position during the recent past has been possible.

I do of course realise that modern aircraft are very noisy machines and I should be grateful if you could convey to the people of Dornoch my regret for any disturbance they may have suffered as a result of flying in connection with the Range. We do everything we can however to minimise the disturbance caused, as our acceptance of modified circuit patterns in 1960 and the more general prohibition we have imposed on the overflight of Dornoch by any military aircraft at less than 2,000 feet, show.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the reply sent on behalf of the Officer Commanding RAF Lossiemouth to the Town Clerk of Dornoch, in response to his letter of 7th February.


(ANTONY LAMBTON)

Robert MacLennan, Esq, MP,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

From: Robert MacLennan, MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 7, 1973

Dear Mr. Trowbridge,

I thought you would like to have the letter I have received from the Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force, Antony Lambton, which has come in reply to my letter concerning the flying of aircraft over Dornoch. As you will see from the Minister's letter I have also been sent a copy of the letter you have received from RAF Lossiemouth. I do hope this overflying will not occur again but I should be most grateful if you would let me know if it does.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert MacLennan".

G.F. Trowbridge Esq.,
Town Clerk, Dornoch,
Town Clerk's Chambers,
High Street,
Dornoch,
Sutherland.

Our Ref:5B

15th March, 1973.

Robert MacLennan, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
LONDON,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. MacLennan,

I thank you for your letter of 7th March, 1973 with enclosure regarding complaints made in connection with the flight of air-craft over Dornoch.

May I, on behalf of the Town Council and the residents generally thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Town Clerk.

LOS/1002/1/Ops

Royal Air Force
Lossiemouth
Morayshire
IV31 6SD

Lossiemouth 2121 Ext 007

E F Trowbridge Esq
Town Clerk & Chamberlain
Town Clerk's Chambers
High Street
Dornoch

18th October 1973

Dear Mr Trowbridge,

LOW FLYING COMPLAINT

As the Operations Officer at RAF Lossiemouth, I am writing to you on behalf of the Station Commander to thank you for your telephone call of 17 Oct 73 concerning the noise caused by aircraft overflying the area of Dornoch. At the time of your complaint we had no aircraft operating overland from this airfield, apart from helicopter operations. However, I have forwarded your complaint to the appropriate authority at MOD London:

Mr Appleby
MOD S4f (Air)
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

01 930 7022 3168

They will be writing to you in the near future.

*Range Safety Officer
11/10/73
to work, arrange
(Tucker)
2185.
Ride Visit*

*any claim
bzh Nov
1/16*

R.E. POCOCK
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Copy to:

Low Flying Complaints Cell (RAF)
HQ P & SS (UK)