

Wingly at Risk of Closure in the UK due to Proposed Cost-Sharing Regulation

Paris, 21st of June 2023 - Wingly, Europe's leading flight sharing platform, launches a petition and engages with MPs to protect private pilots' rights in the United Kingdom due to the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) new proposed regulation updates on cost sharing. This proposed amendment would restrict pilots to only flying when they were already scheduled to fly, meaning it will become illegal for private pilots to publish flights they regularly enjoy and indicate their availability to fly with passionate passengers who are interested in joining them and sharing the costs. As a result, Wingly's services, which have been available in the UK for the past 8 years and used by 8 500 private pilots and 125 000 passengers, will become obsolete.

As a matter of fact, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has been diligently revising the cost sharing regulations with the aim of deterring illegal grey chartering following the highly publicised Sala accident. **While the CAA's intentions behind their proposals are commendable, they will most likely inadvertently render illegal harmless private flights and potentially force the closure of digital cost-sharing platforms like Wingly, despite the fact that such consequences are unintended by the regulator.** Private pilots in the UK will therefore no longer have access to the same services and benefits they previously enjoyed compared to their counterparts in France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland where Wingly is widely used.

The CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA UK), Martin Robinson, explains that **'Platforms such as Wingly offer positive benefits for GA [General Aviation] and we know that many people have benefitted.'** He also highlights that with the proposed amendments, **'The CAA would need to ban cost-sharing platforms like Wingly, but they are not in breach of the rules.'** Robinson emphasises that **'AOPA has never supported illegal public transport flights and the tragic event involving the footballer (Sala) was an illegal public transport flight in a foreign registered aircraft. The organiser of the flight was found guilty and was given a custodial sentence following a successful investigation and prosecution by the CAA.'**

The Civil Aviation Authority acknowledges the significant safety advantages associated with cost-sharing platforms and is actively engaging in discussions with Wingly and the AOPA to reach an agreeable solution. **They are therefore still working on their amendments** and recently stated on their website that **'cost sharing platforms, are ahead of the curve on many of these measures, which are enforced via their terms of use.'** It is also important to note that Wingly remains completely legal as no regulation has been implemented yet. The CAA emphasised this last point by writing that, **'pilots may continue to fly using online platforms as they previously have been.'** Wingly remains vigilant and continues to advocate for pilots' rights as the final proposals have not been published yet. The DfT is meant to be producing a Statutory Instrument by November 2023.

See petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/637644>

See CAA website page on cost sharing: [CAA website](#)

About Wingly

Wingly is Europe's leading flight sharing provider. On its digital platform, the company brings together the largest community of experienced pilots with passengers. In the course of this, flight costs and unique flight experiences are shared. Wingly has brought aviation into the sharing economy. The brand's goal is to make private flying accessible to everyone and more sustainable. It is now possible to fly a 100% electric plane in the UK, the Velis Electro, via Wingly.

<https://www.wingly.io>

<https://www.wingly.io/en>

Press contact

Anastasia Etienne

UK Communication Manager

anastasia@wingly.io

+44 115 888 2149



Footage:

Interested parties can request free videos/photos about our flights

at anastasia@wingly.io

or at <https://www.wingly.io/en/press>