

January 8th 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as a General Medical Practitioner and a Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) of 20 years. I also hold the medical portfolio for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA).

In the carrying out of these duties I have come across many complaints about the Aviation Medicine Section of CASA (AVMED). I am the first to admit that pilots get very passionate about having the ability to continue to fly and complaints are inevitable but these complaints have been escalating fairly dramatically over the last several years.

Briefly they can be summarized as:

- Excessive delays in processing applications for medical certificates
- Excessive and expensive investigations and requirements
- Not taking sufficient notice of the pilot's DAME or his treating specialist

I'm sure that you would have had multiple submissions from other individuals and organisations with these factors involved.

While safety is of course a primary requisite I feel that more use could be made of the pilot's DAME in issuing certificates and making some decisions particularly for the Class 2 (Private) medical certificate.

I have appended an article from a very experienced Aviation Medical Examiner in the USA who explains how the FAA that much more issues can be handled by the aviation medical examiners who do have special training in the discipline of Aerospace Medicine.

CASA AVMED currently have an investigation proceeding into possibly permitting DAME's to issue Class 2 medical certificates in uncomplicated cases without CASA involvement although there would still be some degree of oversight. Judging by what is happening in the USA I feel that this is achievable while still retaining the same degree of safety.

I hope that you will take this information into your considerations and that the Review panel will see fit to recommend the initiative.

Yours Sincerely,

Anthony van der Spek

MBBS, FRACGP, ACCAM. DAME