

Lawyer for victims of north east offshore helicopter crashes reacts to Civil Aviation Authority Report

Digby Brown Partner Lisa Gregory; report highlights progress in resolving “extremely critical helicopter safety issues”, industry must “own its safety responsibilities” to individuals working offshore

A lawyer representing victims of two north east offshore helicopter crashes has reacted to a report published today (Wednesday) by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Digby Brown Solicitors Partner Lisa Gregory represents survivors of Super Puma crashes off Aberdeen in 2012 and off Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands in 2013. All 14 passengers and crew survived the 2012 incident. 4 people were killed and 12 passengers and 2 crew rescued in the 2013 incident.

The CAA report examines progress in improving offshore helicopter safety in the ten months since a review was commissioned following five major safety incidents, including the Super Puma crashes off Aberdeen and Sumburgh, between 2009 and 2013.

Responding to the report, Lisa Gregory said:

“Everyone working offshore must have the confidence that everything that can be done to ensure their safety is being done. The Super Puma incidents in 2012 and 2013, along with others in the UK, highlighted extremely critical helicopter safety issues. The effects on those caught up in these crashes are profound and long-term ones.

“The report details welcome progress in a number of areas, such as helicopter design and a more consistent approach to safety. These will be welcomed by the victims of the two Super Puma crashes in the north east I am representing but there are still a number of important questions to be answered about those specific incidents to which we will continue to seek answers.

“The offshore industry must own its safety responsibilities to everyone who works in it. The tragic incidents that occurred must result in better regulation, improved safety and the prevention of future helicopter crashes.”

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Notes to Editors

1. The CAA report will be available from 10:00 at www.caa.co.uk
2. Digby Brown Solicitors are Scotland’s largest personal injury practice with over 230 staff across six offices covering the country – Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Inverness. Digby Brown are the only Scottish Firm ranked Band 1 for Personal Injury – Pursuer by both the independent Chambers and Legal 500 guides to the UK legal profession.
3. Lisa Gregory is a Partner with Digby Brown Solicitors and head of the firm’s Oil, Gas and Shipping Department based in the Aberdeen office. Lisa is a specialist in claims involving health and safety in the energy industry and has successfully brought cases on behalf of individuals working in Scottish and international waters,

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