

BA pilot under investigation for alleged theft

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: A British Airways A380 training captain is under internal investigation after being caught on CCTV allegedly taking food and beverages without payment from the staff café at the airline's Waterside headquarters near Heathrow Airport.

Despite reportedly earning an annual salary of approximately £170,000, the senior pilot was captured on security footage repeatedly removing items without paying.

The airline has confirmed the individual admitted to the behaviour and has since been issued a formal warning.

However, the decision not to pursue more serious disciplinary action has drawn criticism from within the company, with some staff questioning whether the outcome reflects a double standard in how rules are enforced.

Airline pilots occupy positions of significant trust, with responsibility for the safety of hundreds of passengers on each flight. The incident has prompted wider discussion about the expectations placed on senior flight crew and the moral obligations they carry, both in and outside the cockpit.

“This is not just about the monetary value,” one airline employee commented anonymously. “It’s about integrity. People expect more from someone in such a high-profile and well-paid role.”

Several employees have pointed out that lower-paid staff, such as cabin crew or ground workers, might face dismissal for similar conduct. Critics argue that the handling of this case risks undermining internal morale and creating perceptions of preferential treatment for senior personnel.

While the financial cost of the alleged theft is minimal, the reputational damage could be more significant. The idea that a training captain — responsible for instructing and evaluating other pilots — could engage in such behaviour has raised concerns among industry observers.

British Airways has not publicly named the pilot involved and declined to comment further, citing internal HR confidentiality.

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