

[REDACTED]

19 May 2021
Reference: F0005241

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 22 April 2021, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Where your questions are requests for recorded information, we have considered them in line with the provisions of FOIA.

1. How many users have operator ID's and/or flyer ID's are active?

User	Number
Operator & Flyer	180,139
Only Operator	29,802
Organisations (Operator)	5,360
Only Flyers	34,181
Under 13 Flyers	4,117
Total	253,599

2. How many of those drone users have permissions with the CAA (total)?

There are currently 4648 active operational authorisations for remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) operators.

3. How many complaints you've received about drone activity? (per year going back as far as you can to present)

The CAA's role in relation to drone incidents primarily concerns those where there is a risk to aviation safety, rather than to public safety. The Police often have greater resources, response times and powers of investigation than the CAA. To support this, the CAA has agreed with the Police, in a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), that the Police will take the lead in dealing with unmanned aircraft misuse incidents, particularly at public events, that may contravene aviation safety legislation or other relevant criminal legislation. This question would, therefore, be best directed to the Police. While we do receive occasional complaints about drone activity, they are not centrally tracked and we have no means of providing an accurate figure of how many we have received.

4. *Our users want to be able to view their operator ID, flyer ID and permissions status on our platform but this would require API access to the CAA. Whilst this is very easy to do, we'd need to know if the CAA would be happy to discuss this with us. We're happy to be very open with the CAA and provide information on our users when requested if the CAA is happy to work with us to build a better, stronger and safer community for our drone users. Could this be done?*

5. *Could I have a contact email/phone of a person/team that I could have as a point of contact for Privuas, our company please? We'll be on your radar (hopefully) very soon, and we're hoping to have a very large portion of the UK drone community on our platform so having a POC for both yourselves as well as us will benefit both the CAA and Privuas.*

In relation to the above questions the team can be contacted at uavenquiries@caa.co.uk.

6. *Do you have any information on drone statistics, surveys or studies etc? We'd really appreciate them being sent over. If not, if you know where we should be looking we'd appreciate it.*

CAA publications relation to RPAS can be found on the following links:

<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=search&search=drone&filter=1&reorder=refOrder>

<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=search&search=unmanned%20aircraft&filter=1&reorder=refOrder>

<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=85&filter=1>

In 2016 the CAA undertook industry-first research into drone user behaviour and attitudes towards responsible drone use and the future of drones generally. Since then we have conducted further research several times to track progress. The output of this research can be found at <https://dronesafe.uk/research/>.

7. *Has anybody ever been prosecuted, or convicted for drone related activities in the UK?*

As noted above, the Police will take the lead in dealing with unmanned aircraft misuse incidents, particularly at public events, that may contravene aviation safety legislation or other relevant criminal legislation. In recent years any prosecutions would have been undertaken by the Police.

Prior to the signing of the MoU, the CAA did undertake some prosecutions relating to drone activities, and details of successful CAA prosecutions are published on our website at <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/Enforcement-and-prosecutions/>.

8. *Has anybody been injured or killed for drone related activities in the UK?*

As above, this question would be best directed to the Police.

9. *Is there anything the CAA would like from us as an all in one drone platform for UK users? Anything they'd like us to be doing, or have on the platform?*

In relation to the above question, the team can be contacted at uavenquiries@caa.co.uk.

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with the parts of your request that are valid requests for information under FOIA, in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

 [@caa.co.uk](mailto: [redacted]@caa.co.uk)

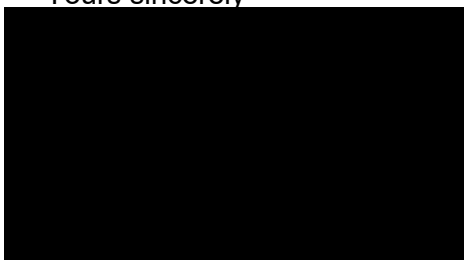
In relation to the parts of your request that are valid requests for information under FOIA, the CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set out in the attachment. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=24>.

Yours sincerely



CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.