Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

14 October 2011
FOIA reference: F0001228

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 29 September 2011, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

> *"I would like to request some information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning the number of applications that have been made to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in UK airspace in 2010 and 2011.*
>
> *I understand that applicants need to submit application form SRG 1320 prior to flights. I would be grateful if you would let me know:*
>
> *a) how many application have been made each month since the new regulations started in January 2010?*
> *b) how many of the applications have been granted or refused?*
> *c) in each case whether the application related to a UAV that was below 20kg, above 20kg and below 150kg, or above 150kg*
> *d) the location of activity on each application*
> *e) The description of flying activity from each application*
>
> *Depending on the amount of applications that there have been I understand that collating the details for the final two items may be rather onerous. However it may be that there have not been a great deal of applications in which case I would be extremely grateful for the information if possible".*

Our response:

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are pleased to be able to provide the information below.

a) Please see the attached table.

b) Two applications have been refused – one in April 2010 and one in July 2011. The remaining applications have been granted permissions, in the majority of cases after the CAA has required amendments to be made to the submitted Operations Manuals.

c) Please see the attached table.

Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR www.caa.co.uk
Telephone 01293 768512 rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk

d) The location of the flying activity is usually restricted to within the UK. Applications for unmanned aircraft over 20 kg are restricted to specified areas as detailed in the attached table.

e) All of the applications are for aerial work. Aerial work can include a variety of tasks where a payment is given or promised in respect of each flight ranging from aerial photography to research and development.

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

Mark Stevens
External Response Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR

mark.stevens@caa.co.uk

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 in the attachment.

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

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

Should you wish to make further Freedom of Information requests, please use the e-form at http://www.caa.co.uk/foi.

Yours sincerely

Rick Chatfield
FoIA & EIR Case Manager

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.

Date	Applications Permissions Issued	Mass	Location
January 2010	2	Below 20kg	UK
February 2010	1	Below 20kg	UK
March 2010	18	Below 20kg	UK
April 2010	6	Below 20kg	UK
May 2010	2	Below 20kg	UK
June 2010	5	Below 20kg	UK
July 2010	6	Below 20kg	UK
August 2010	3	Below 20kg	UK
September 2010	3	2Below 20kg 1 20kg -150kg	UK Walney Island, West Freugh
October 2010	2	Below 20kg	UK
November 2010	7	Below 20kg	UK
December 2010	3	2 Below 20kg 1 Above 150kg	UK Cardington
January 2011	5	Below 20kg	UK
February 2011	6	Below 20kg	UK
March 2011	4	Below 20kg	UK
April 2011	10	Below 20kg	UK
May 2011	1	Below 20kg	UK
June 2011	1	Below 20kg	UK
July 2011	6	Below 20kg	UK
August 2011	3	Below 20kg	UK
September 2011	7	Below 20kg	UK