Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

27 February 2012
FOIA reference: F0001292

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 7 February 2012, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

"Please tell me how many CAA permissions are currently active for flying drones (UAVs) in Wiltshire. This should include the number of applications permissions issued, when they were issued, the weight of the UAV and duration".

Our response:

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

The CAA is unable to state the number of permissions that are currently active to operate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in Wiltshire as most permissions do not have a specific geographical limit within the UK.

Applications to operate UAVs are submitted to the CAA under Articles 166(5) and 167(1) of the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO). Larger UAVs (with a mass of between 7kg and 20kg) require a permission under Article 166, while permissions are issued for both Articles 166 and 167 for sub-7 kg UAVs. Permissions are only valid for one year then have to be renewed.

The enclosed table shows details of those permissions granted that are currently active. 'Blanket permissions' do not have any geographical limit within the UK but only operational limitations in terms of maximum height and range from the operator (visual line of sight), among others.

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

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.

UAS Permission Statistics

Date	Applications Permissions Issued	Mass	Location	Duration One-Off Series or Blanket	7-20 kg	SUSA +SUA Art 166 & 167
February 2011	5	Below 20kg	UK	5 blanket	1	4
March 2011	6	Below 20kg	UK	6 blanket	0	6
April 2011	4	Below 20kg	UK	4 blanket	0	4
May 2011	10	Below 20kg	UK	10 blanket	1	9
June 2011	1	Below 20kg	UK	1 blanket	0	1
July 2011	6	Below 20kg	UK	1 Series 5 blanket	1	5
August 2011	3	Below 20kg	UK	3 blanket	1	2
September 2011	7	Below 20kg	UK	7 blanket	2	5
October 2011	2	Below 20kg	UK	2 blanket	0	2
November 2011	3	Below 20kg	UK	3 blanket	0	3
December 2011	5	Below 20kg	UK	5 blanket	0	5
January 2012	3	Below 20kg	UK	3 blanket	1	2
February 2012 (as at 21 Feb	3	Below 20kg	UK	3 blanket	1	2