

Finance and Corporate Services
Information Management

15 July 2013
FOIA reference: F0001579

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 21 June 2013, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

- 1. What permissions, if any have be sought for to deployment of UAV's in Northern Ireland on and prior to 30th March 2011;*
- 2. What permissions, if any, for deployment of UAV's in Northern Ireland were granted on and prior to 30th March 2011;*
- 3. Details of permissions granted in respect of deployment of UAV's in Northern Ireland for the relevant date period, including (i) a description of the flying activity, (ii) confirmation of the mass of the UAV(s) and details of the nature/identity of the applicant.*
- 4. Confirmation of whether permission for deployment of any UAV for the relevant date period was sought and given to the Police Service of Northern Ireland or an agent acting on their behalf.*

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.

Firstly it may be helpful to explain how permissions are issued. The CAA issues permissions to unmanned aircraft operators operating commercially or close to people or property as required by Articles 166 and 167 of the Air Navigation Order.

Permissions are issued either for a specific flight at a specific location or, more commonly, for any flight in the UK subject to the aircraft being operated in accordance with the operator's written operating procedures as submitted to the CAA. Occasionally an operator may choose to geographically bound their own operations but most operators opt to have the freedom to operate anywhere in the UK.

To answer you specific questions:

- 1. No permissions were sought for deployment of small unmanned aircraft in Northern Ireland only, on and prior to the 30th of March 2011.*

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

2. No permissions were granted for deployment of a small unmanned aircraft in Northern Ireland only, on and prior to the 30th March 2011.
3. No permissions were granted for deployment of small unmanned aircraft in Northern Ireland only for the relevant date period.
4. No permission for deployment of any UAV for the relevant period was sought and given to the Police Service of Northern Ireland or to an agent declared to be acting on their behalf.

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
Information Rights and Enquiries Officer

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.