

25 July 2013  
FOIA reference: F0001582

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 12 June 2013, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

- 1) *“What license is required for flying UAVs in UK airspace?”*
- 2) *Has the CAA ever granted a license to the MPS for such aircraft?*
- 3) *Is any such license still in effect?*
- 4) *If no license has been granted, has the MPS ever applied for such a license?*

*Please can you answer the above questions and supply all existing correspondence between the CAA and the Metropolitan Police regarding this matter”*

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.

1. Unmanned aircraft with a mass of over 20kg are required to comply with the full requirements of the UK Air Navigation Order (ANO), in the same fashion as that required for manned aircraft. Exemptions can be obtained from specific articles of the ANO, but any such exemption must be supported by an appropriate safety case. For unmanned aircraft with a mass of 20kg or less, which are termed ‘small unmanned aircraft’, no licence is required but a CAA permission is required in prescribed circumstances. Further details can be obtained on our website using the following link: [www.caa.co.uk/CAP722](http://www.caa.co.uk/CAP722).
2. The CAA has not granted any permission or exemption to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) with respect to the operation of unmanned aircraft systems.
3. Not applicable.
4. The CAA does not hold any record of any such application.

**Civil Aviation Authority**

Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)  
Telephone 01293 768512 [rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk](mailto:rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk)

The CAA can confirm that it holds no correspondence with the Metropolitan Police regarding this subject.

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](mailto: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](http://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.