

20 January 2014  
FOIA reference: F0001772

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 3 January 2014, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

1. *"If Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in weight classification group 2 or 3 were used in the vicinity of, or over, Chester during daylight hours between 31st December 2013 and 3rd January 2014.*
2. *The altitude of any UAS that was operating on these days.*
3. *The type of"*

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. We assume you are referring to the interim weight classifications shown at the table at [CAP 722](#), Section 1, Chapter 1, Page 2, Paragraph 3.1. The weight classification groups 2 & 3 refer to Light UAS and UAS that weigh more than 20kg.

We do not hold records of individual flights for UAS of any weight. Generally group 2 and 3 UAS use is limited to flights within segregated airspace or within Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) of the pilot. We can confirm that the CAA does not hold a record of any UAS flights made in the vicinity of, or over Chester between 31 December 2013 and 3 January 2014.

UAS in weight classification group 1 (sub-20kg) may be granted an annual CAA Permission to fly in certain circumstances, such as for aerial work or when fitted with a surveillance device. Such aircraft do not have to fly within segregated airspace but must remain within VLOS of the pilot (500 metres) and not higher than 400 feet above the launch point. A list of current small UAS permission holders can be found on our website at: [www.caa.co.uk/uas](http://www.caa.co.uk/uas). Detailed guidance on the use of unmanned aircraft is given in our publication CAP 722 "Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace – Guidance" (see previous link above).

**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)

It should be noted that private operations of sub-20kg UAS often do not require any type of permission from the CAA. However, operators of these aircraft are still legally bound to fly in accordance with Articles 166 and 167 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO). Please see: [www.caa.co.uk/cap393](http://www.caa.co.uk/cap393) for more information

2. As previously stated, we do not keep records of individual aircraft flights but would expect any small UAS to fly not above 400 feet of the launch point and no further away than 500 metres from the pilot.
3. It is not possible for us to say what type of aircraft it may have been. If it was a UAS then it is most likely to have been a sub-20kg aircraft, for the reasons already set out.

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.