

[REDACTED]

Date: 7 February 2024  
Reference: F0006669

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 11 January 2024, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

*1) The total number of entities that currently hold operational authorisations to conduct UAS Rotary Wing Swarm Operations in the United Kingdom;*

*For those who hold authorisations currently, as defined in question*

*2), please provide the maximum number of UA authorised to be flown in a single swarm simultaneously, for each of the entities identified in question 1).*

*N.B. No request is made for the entities to be named; Should the requested information in question 2 be unable to be disclosed due to the time to process the request, please provide the highest number of UA that are currently authorised to be flown during a single mission; If the number is different from that disclosed question*

*3) what is the highest number of UA that have been authorised to be flown simultaneously in a single swarm to date (i.e either current or lapsed Operational Authorisations);*

*In respect of application processing time and associate fees, for each operational authorisation currently issued, as identified in question 1, please provide:*

*4a) the total number of hours work the UK CAA invoiced the entity for their initial submission,*

*4b) and the cost associated including expenses.*

*Should the requested information in question 2 be unable to be disclosed due to the time to process the request, please provide the following; Average hours and total charge (including expenses) across all rotary swarms applications For a single initial rotary swarms application, the current highest hours and total charge (including expenses) to date.*

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the CAA holds information within scope of the above enquiry; if I may I shall address each of your points in turn:

***1) The total number of entities that currently hold operational authorisations to conduct UAS Rotary Wing Swarm Operations in the United Kingdom;***

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH6 0YR. [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

Email: [foi.requests@caa.co.uk](mailto:foi.requests@caa.co.uk)

7 UK approved VLOS Rotary Wing Swarm operators.

**2) For those who hold authorisations currently, as defined in question, please provide the maximum number of UA authorised to be flown in a single swarm simultaneously, for each of the entities identified in question 1).**

Please see the table below.

**3) What is the highest number of UA that have been authorised to be flown simultaneously in a single swarm to date (i.e either current or lapsed Operational Authorisations)**

2000

**4a) the total number of hours work the UK CAA invoiced the entity for their initial submission,**

**4b)and the cost associated including expenses.**

**Should the requested information in question 2 be unable to be disclosed due to the time to process the request, please provide the following; Average hours and total charge (including expenses) across all rotary swarms applications For a single initial rotary swarms application, the current highest hours and total charge (including expenses) to date.**

Entity	Max Number of Aircraft	Total Hours UK CAA Invoiced (Initial Submissions Only)
A	1000	2
B	1000	2
C	2000	2
D	250	2
E	500	2
F	200	2
G	600	2

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:-

FOI.Requests@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 out below. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

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

Information Commissioner's Office  
 FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution  
 Wycliffe House  
 Water Lane  
 Wilmslow  
 SK9 5AF  
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=24>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team  
Information Rights Specialist

### **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.