

19 January 2015
Reference: F0002191

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 11 January 2015 for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

Please provide copies of all policies and guidance in relation to the use of drones.

Please disclose the legislation relevant to the use of drones.

Please disclose whether the CAA has been lobbied in relation to removing a restriction within legislation which apparently restricts usage to "within line of sight". Please disclose the names of those individuals/companies/bodies lobbying for such a move.

Our response:

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

The CAA policy and guidance regarding the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems is contained within CAA Publication CAP722, which can be accessed via www.caa.co.uk/cap722. Additional information can also be obtained from the CAA's website at www.caa.co.uk/uas. Guidance to the safe flying of model aircraft is contained within CAP658 at www.caa.co.uk/cap658.

In addition, we have also released the following Information Notices on the subject:

- IN-2014/044 - Small Unmanned Aircraft - National Qualified Entities
- IN-2014/115 - Small Unmanned Aircraft Operations - Future requirements for a Safety Case Assessment
- IN-2014/181 - Non-Standard and Enhanced Non-Standard Flight Approvals in UK Airspace
- IN-2014/184 - Small Unmanned Aircraft: Congested Areas Operating Safety Case (CAOSC)
- IN-2014/190 - Small Unmanned Aircraft Operations Within London and Other Towns and Cities

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House Gatwick Airport South Gatwick RH6 0YR www.caa.co.uk
Telephone 01293 768512 foi.requests@caa.co.uk

These Information Notices can be viewed on the CAA's website via this link

<http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=89>

Finally, a General Exemption to allow limited First Person View flying of radio-controlled aircraft can be found at this link www.caa.co.uk/ORS4No1011.

In terms of legislation, the Air Navigation Order 2009 (ANO 2009) is the relevant legal framework covering all flying activities within the United Kingdom and this legislation is also relevant to the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Part 32 of the Order describes how it should be applied and, in article 253 in particular, lists exemptions from the Order for certain classes of aircraft. The ANO 2009 can be accessed via this link www.caa.co.uk/cap393. CAP 722 (see answer above) provides the appropriate guidance.

The CAA has not been lobbied in relation to removing restrictions regarding line of sight. The guidance and policy regarding the requirements for unmanned aircraft system operations within, or beyond 'visual line of sight' is well publicised.

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:-

Caroline Chalk
Head of External Information Services
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
Gatwick
RH6 0YR

caroline.chalk@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 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
www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=286&pagetype=65&appid=24>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Stevens'.

Mark Stevens
External Response 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.