

25 November 2015
Reference: F0002533

Dear XXXX

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 31 October 2015, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'The number of operators of UAV/UAS receiving permission since 2005 Breakdown by year and if possible the size of aircraft permission obtained for'

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 latest list of current permission holders and the classes of aircraft that they fly can be found in attachment 1. The list of operators covers the range of permission holders who operate aircraft in the 0-20kg weight categories. Overall, there are three general classes based on weight (Maximum Take-Off Mass – MTOM) and the totals are included after each class:

- Not exceeding 7kg: **1208**
- Over 7kg but not exceeding 20kg: **288***
- Over 20kg: **7**

*Please note that all operators that have a permission for the over 7kg-but not exceeding 20kg class, also get an automatic permission for the not-exceeding 7kg class.

We do not have figures for the number of civilian drones flying in the UK, but we can give you the numbers of commercial operating permissions we have granted since 2010 (when the requirement to obtain a permission came into force)

2010 - **43**

2011 - **46**

2012 - **86**

2013 - **170**

2014 – **486**

01 January to 23 November – **1462***

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House Gatwick Airport South Gatwick RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Telephone: 01293 768512. foi.requests@caa.co.uk

(*the total number of *active* permissions in the weight category 0-20kg is **1208**, the difference between the two totals is accounted for by the remainder having been reissued after amendment or as temporary permissions for a specific purpose).

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.

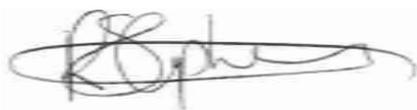
Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

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 'R Stephen', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rihanne Stephen
Information Rights 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.