

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19 May 2016
Reference: F0002750

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 20 April 2016, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request information on reports of suspected drones near authorised manned aircraft in Britain.

Please provide the number of reports of suspected unmanned aircraft near planes, helicopters or other manned aircraft in each of the last three years.

Please state the type of manned aircraft for each and whether there was any collision.

Please also provide a summary for each incident including any consequences.

In each case please state whether the operators of the suspected drones were flying them without permission in restricted airspace. Please also state the location.

The data should include the UK Airprox risk category for each incident.

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 UK Airprox Board (UKAB), which is sponsored jointly by the CAA and the UK Military Aviation Authority, collects reports of airprox incidents and produces a regular review of assessed airprox incidents. This includes airprox incidents involving drones and other aircraft.

Please refer to attachment 1, where you will find a table showing airprox incidents reported as involving drones and other 'small aircraft' since 2010. It also includes those reported as involving model aircraft, small balloons and unidentified or untraced objects.

You are able to access the individual reports and obtain full details for those incidents on the UKAB website at www.airproxboard.org.uk. You will need to select the 'Reports and Analysis' option, which will allow you to access the individual reports by Airprox number.

Entries in the table that do not have a risk assessment (i.e. most of 2016) are incidents that UKAB have not yet assessed. Therefore, it may be that some of these may change in respect of the description of the reported object once UKAB have looked at the incident in detail.

Civil Aviation Authority

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

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

As the UKAB report on near-misses, they do not hold information on incidents involving collisions. The CAA is not aware of any collisions involving drones, however any collisions would be investigated by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB).

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

<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



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.