

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

30 August 2016
Reference: F0002860

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Your request:

1. *Is there a public record document that details the agreement between the CAA and Amazon?*
2. *What other government groups are part of the agreement with Amazon?*
3. *Where exactly are the tests taking place? When will the trials move to urban areas?*
4. *How dense are the test areas (in population density terms) -What factors is the CAA evaluating the trials on?*
5. *How long will the trial of Amazon drones last?*
6. *When is the next meeting between the CAA and Amazon to discuss trial results?'*

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.

We have recently responded to a similar request which includes an overview of the CAA's interactions with Amazon, which is available on the CAA website at:
http://www.caa.co.uk/uploadedFiles/CAA/Content/Standard_Content/Our_work/Information_requests/Disclosure_log/2016/F0002892Reply.pdf.

To answer your specific questions –

1. There is no 'agreement' between the CAA and Amazon. The CAA has issued the relevant approvals for the flight operations that the company has applied for.
2. Within the UK Government, we are aware that Amazon has also been in communication with the Department for Transport (DfT).

3. The location details of Amazon's flight operations form part of the information that is exempt from disclosure under Sections 43 and 44 of the FOIA as detailed in the previous response referred to above.

The current approval only allows flight operations in specified rural areas, and flight operations that include urban areas will only be permitted to take place when the applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated to the CAA that it is safe to do so.

4. We do not hold information on the population density. The flights are conducted within controlled perimeters in restricted airspace and the approval issued by the CAA requires the aircraft to remain separated from third parties. The factors taken into consideration by the CAA are safety-based and our primary interest is the full and safe integration of drone operations into the UK's total aviation system.
5. We do not hold information on how long Amazon's trial will last.
6. There are no further meetings between the CAA and Amazon planned at present.

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.