

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

25 October 2016
Reference: F0002964

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 21 October 2016, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'Would I be able to get information on UAV usage from 2006 to 2016, where they've been involved in accidents and incidents. Also if you have any official regulations relating the commercial UAV usage.'

Our response:

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Incidents involving UAV misuse in public places are usually investigated by the Police. If you are seeking information on the number of UAV incidents in public places, we would suggest you contact the police for this information.

Incidents where the operation of a UAV may be causing a threat to aviation, such as where a UAV may be endangering an aircraft or where a UAV is being operated in the vicinity of an airport or airfield should be reported to the CAA and can be dealt with through two routes:

1. 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, which is published on the UKAB website.

An airprox is a situation in which, in the opinion of a pilot or air traffic services personnel, the distance between aircraft as well as their relative positions and speed have been such that the safety of the aircraft involved may have been compromised. This includes airprox incidents involving UAVs and other aircraft.

The UKAB's published reports can be accessed on their website at www.airproxboard.org.uk.

Civil [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. The CAA may also hold some information relating to drone incidents reported to the CAA in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 376/2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation. An occurrence means any safety-related event which endangers or which, if not corrected or addressed, could endanger an aircraft, its occupants or any other person.

The Regulation requires that appropriate measures are put in place to ensure that occurrence reports, analysis and follow-up actions are kept confidential.

The Regulation prohibits disclosure of information on occurrences for any purpose other than the maintenance or improvement of aviation safety, which includes under the FOIA. Therefore, any such information is exempt from release under Section 44(1)(b) of the FOIA. A copy of this exemption can be found below.

The way in which the CAA currently regulates the use of UAVs in the UK is outlined in the Air Navigation Order (ANO) 2016 and within CAA Publication CAP 722 '*Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace – Guidance*'. More information can be found at www.caa.co.uk/uas

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.

Freedom of Information Act: Section 44

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it-

- (a) is prohibited by or under any enactment,
- (b) is incompatible with any Community obligation, or
- (c) would constitute or be punishable as a contempt of court.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) fall within any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1).