

16 August 2013

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19 July 2013 concerning unmanned aerial vehicles.

1. Has your force used (in a trial or otherwise) or considered using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)?  
NO

2. If your force has not considered using UAVs, could you state why not?  
The service is not managed by the force.

3. If your force has used or plans to use UAVs in a trial or other capacity, could you please provide:

- a. The dates, times and locations of the trials.
  - b. The purposes for which they were/are to be carried out.
  - c. The manufacturer and model of the UAV used/to be used.
- N/A

4. Has any sort of plan or timetable been produced by the force in order to make preparations for the introduction of UAVs?  
N/A

a. If so, please provide a copy of the plan/timetable.  
N/A

5. Have any force representatives held discussions with representatives of UAV manufacturers or manufacturers' industry bodies on the issue of the introduction of UAVs? If so, please can you provide:  
NO

a. Dates, times and agendas of the meetings; b. Minutes of the meetings.

6. Have any force representatives held discussions with representatives of other police forces in relation to the use of UAVs?  
If so, please can you provide:

a. Dates, times and agendas of the meetings; b. Minutes of the meetings.

7. Has your force received from central or local government or the Association of Chief Police Officers any instructions, advice, recommendations, guidance or information relating to police use of UAVs?  
a. If so, please provide a copy of the documents provided.

Under Section 17 (1) Cleveland Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any further information relevant to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of Section 23 (5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies. This should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is or is not held by Cleveland Police.

As Section 23(5) is an absolute exemption it does not require a public interest test to be conducted in order for this information to be exempt from disclosure. To give a statement of the reasons why this exemption applies would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt. Therefore, under section 17(4) of the Act, we are not obliged to give such a statement.

Additionally, the Cleveland Police Service can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information relating to the Security bodies;

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request you have the right to request that we review your case under our review procedure.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A.W. McDougall  
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