



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

Our Ref: 2009/00481

13 July 2009

Dear Member of the Public,

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT Reference No F-2009-00481

I write in connection with your request for information received on 23rd June 2009. I note you seek access to the following information:

- a) *the number of times your police force has authorised the use of or made use of unmanned surveillance drones or UAVs in each of the following periods for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime:*
 - i) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2006 ii) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2007 ii) 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2008 ii) 1 Jan – 21 June 2009
- b) *the total cost to your force of deploying these drones in each of those time periods (staff costs, rental, fuel, processing of images etc)*
- c) *the number of unmanned drones or UAVs which are owned by your force.*
- d) *The names of the organisations from which you have rented/borrowed unmanned drones or UAVs during each of the time periods mentioned above.*
- e) *A copy of any rules of deployment used by your force during those time periods.*
- f) *The number of personnel and their rank employed by your force trained to operate or authorise the use of UAVs in each of these time periods*
- g) *The amount of data measured in gigabytes recorded by the UAVs in each of the time periods.*
- h) *The names of all the databases which hold any of the information recorded by these UAVs on your behalf.*

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and **therefore in the public domain without caveat.**

In response to your questions, I have today decided to release the information requested in full as I can see no harm to any individual, the community, the police service or other bodies. After considering whether releasing this information will affect the good order and functioning of community, government or other public service affairs, I believe it is in the public's interest the information be released. The information lies within the arena of public safety and may provide common benefit to members of the community. Releasing this information will not identify any individual or compromise any court case, law enforcement or investigation.

With reference to your recent enquiry and in response to your questions I can confirm the following:



Response – Question a - Throughout the required period (from 1st Jan 2006 to 21 Jun 2009) Bedfordshire Police has not authorised the use of or made use of unmanned surveillance drones or UAVs for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime.

Question b to h – Not applicable (see above answer given to Question a).

