



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2012 - 25

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our formal response to your request below.

You asked:

(1) How many "drones" (Unmanned Aircraft Systems and/or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) does the force currently have at its disposal?

We have no such equipment at our disposal.

(2) If none, does the force plan to introduce drones? Please provide details of meetings where this has been discussed.

Dorset Police currently have no plans to introduce drones and no such discussions have taken place.

(3) How many drones has the force had access to over the last three years?

We have had no such equipment at our disposal during the relevant period.

(4) How many times have the drones (if any) been deployed in each of the last three years?

See our response to Q3.

(5) How many requests has the force made to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to fly drones?

As per Q3; our response to your Q5 must therefore be 'No Information Held.'

(6) How many such requests have been declined?

Please refer to Q5; our response to Q6 of your request must also be 'No Information Held.'

Additionally, Dorset Police can neither confirm nor deny that we hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request, by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies.

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with Section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest test in this area.