

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2013 – 448**

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

You asked:

1. Has your force used (in a trial or otherwise) or considered using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)?

Yes; Dorset Police have previously considered using UAV's.

2. 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.

Dorset Police has not used, nor has any plans to use UAV's in a trial or other capacity. Our response to Q2 of your request must be 'no information held'.

3. The minutes of a meeting of the force's executive board from March 2009 (attached) state that the force "received a grant for a drone". Could you please provide details on: a. From whom this grant was received; b. The value of the grant; £10,000 c. Whether it was subsequently used and for what purposes.

Our enquiries indicate that a grant of £10,000 was received from the Home Office, but subsequently returned to them unused.

4. From 1 January 2009 to the present, 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: a. Dates, times and agendas of the meetings; b. Minutes of the meetings.

No such discussions have taken place, our response to Q4 of your request must therefore be 'no information held'.

5. From 1 January 2009 to the present, have any force representatives held discussions with representatives of other police forces or government bodies/departments in relation to the use of UAVs? If so, please you can you provide: a. Date, times and agendas of the meetings; b. Minutes of the meetings.

We have been unable to identify any relevant records held in response to Q5 of your request, our response must therefore be 'no information held'.

6. 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 UAV's? a. If so, please provide a copy of the documents provided.

We have been unable to identify any relevant records held in response to Q6 of your request, our response must therefore be 'no information held'.

7. Has your force designated a single point of contact (SPOC) for unmanned aerial systems?



No; Dorset Police do not have a SPOC for UAV's. Our response to Q7 must therefore be 'no information held'.

Please see below our neither confirm nor deny response related to any other relevant information that may be held.

Section 17 of the Act provides that:

A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is to any extent relying on a claim that any provision in part II relating to the duty to confirm or deny is relevant to the request or on a claim that information is exempt information must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice which – (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question, and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Dorset Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relating to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemption:

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

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