

Information Compliance Unit  
Professional Standards and Legal Services Department  
Durham Constabulary  
Peterlee Police Office  
St Aidans Way  
Peterlee  
Co Durham  
SR8 1QR



Aiming for  
EXCELLENCE

Tel. No: 101 Ext 6702582  
Fax No: 0191 3752290  
Web Site: [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)  
E-mail: [freedomofinformation@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@durham.pnn.police.uk)  
Our Ref: HP/ICU/DC/FOI/452/13

Date 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

**This matter is being dealt with by Hilary Penfold , Information Officer, Telephone No 0191 3752584**

Dear Sir/Madam

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 452/13**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18 July 2013 which was received by Durham Constabulary on that date. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *Has your force used (in a trial or otherwise) or considered using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)?*
2. *If your force has not considered using UAVs, could you state why not?*
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.*
4. *Has any sort of plan or timetable been produced by the force in order to make preparations for the introduction of UAVs?*
  - a. *If so, please provide a copy of the plan/timetable.*
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:*
  - 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.*

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

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.

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

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

Please note that Durham Constabulary's response to your request is unique and should not be used as a comparison with any other Force response you receive.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted with the Crime and Justice Command of Durham Constabulary.

No Information is held in relation to your request. Durham Constabulary does not use unmanned aerial vehicles, as they are not relevant to our current force needs and we currently have no plans to do so.

Additionally, Durham Constabulary 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).

This is an absolute exemption and I am therefore not required to complete a public interest test.

No inference can be taken that further information does or does not exist.

I do hope this information is of assistance to you.

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet which details your right to complain.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Penfold  
Information Officer

(Enc)

*We are very keen to ensure that we are tackling issues which matter to you in your community. With our colleagues in the local authority, we have developed Police And Communities Together (PACT) meetings = to ensure that you have a chance to engage with local officers from your beat team and tell us your concerns.*

*This is your opportunity to influence what we focus on, where you live.*

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

*You can find out more about PACT:  
By ringing Durham Constabulary on 101  
By logging on to [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)  
By following us on Twitter and Facebook*

PERSONAL

C Jones

Email: [chris@statewatch.org](mailto:chris@statewatch.org)

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED