



**Kent
Police**



Chris Jones
chris@statewatch.org

Direct Line: 01622 654429/654413

Fax: 01622 652029

E-mail: freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

Date: 16 August 2013

Our Ref: FOI 13/07/625

Dear Chris Jones,

Freedom of Information Request 13/07/625

I write in response to your application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) received on 23 July 2013, regarding Kent police's involvement in the South Coast Partnership and other matters relating to Unmanned Aerial Systems, in which you requested the following.

1. *A list of the organisations (whether public or private) that are currently participating in the South Coast Partnership.*
2. *The SCP's current timetable/'roadmap' for the deployment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).*
3. *The SCP's remit/'mission statement'/statement of purpose.*
4. *Regarding meetings of the SCP that have taken place from 1 January 2010 to the present, please provide:*
 - a. *The dates, times and agendas of the meetings;*
 - b. *Minutes of the meetings.*
5. *Outside of the SCP and covering the period 1 July 2011 to the present, have Kent Police held discussions with representatives of UAV manufacturers or manufacturers' industry bodies on the issue of the introduction of UAS? If so, please can you provide:*
 - a. *Dates, times and agendas of the meetings;*
 - b. *Minutes of the meetings.*
6. *Outside of the SCP and covering the period 1 July 2011 to the present, have Kent Police held discussions with representatives of other police forces, ACPO, local or central government in relation to the use of UAS? If so, please can you provide:*
 - a. *Date, times and agendas of the meetings;*
 - b. *Minutes of the meetings.*

The South Coast Partnership was never a structured arrangement and dissolved in 2010 when BAE Systems ceased development in the civilian use of unmanned aerial systems in the south coast area. There is no documentation regarding the cessation which was communicated by telephone.

In relation to questions 1 – 5, Kent Police holds no information. The information requested in question 6 held by Kent Police is appended. Please note that the information relates to a meeting which took place almost 2 years ago.

The position of the Chief Constable is that unmanned aerial vehicles will not be deployed over land falling within his jurisdiction.

Kent Police neither confirms nor denies whether any other information relevant to your request is held by virtue of an exemption at Section 23(5) – 'Information supplied by or concerning certain security bodies'.

Section 23 is an absolute, class based exemption. This means that we have no duty to confirm or deny whether any information of this particular class is held and there is no requirement for us to consider the public interest in doing so.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the FOIA in general, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Giovanni Cacciocarro

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavor to reply within 20 working days. If your appeal concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

You may lodge your complaint by writing to:

Freedom of Information
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF