

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT

Information Compliance & Disclosure Section

Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB

Tel: 01772 413327 Fax: 01772 412123 Email: information@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Chris Jones

Statewatch

Via email: chris@statewatch.org

14 August 2013

Dear Mr Jones,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION REFERENCE NO: 4893/13

Thank you for your request for information received by Lancashire Constabulary on the 19th July 2013, which was as follows:-

To cover the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013:

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.

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?

Your request has now been considered and the information you are seeking can be found below:-

1. No
2. No
3. n/a
4. No
5. No

6 & 7. Lancashire Constabulary's Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Weigh, is the national ACPO Lead for this matter, and as such chairs a six-monthly steering group meeting. It is the force's understanding that you are liaising directly with ACPO in relation to receiving copies of minutes from these meetings. Lancashire Constabulary does not hold any further information relevant to either of these queries.

8. Chief Inspector Mark Morley, Staff Officer to DCC Weigh, acts as the point of contact for Lancashire Constabulary on this matter.

Further to the above, Lancashire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny whether any additional information is held relevant to your request, by virtue of the listed exemption S.23 (5) - Information Supplied By, or Concerning, Certain Security Bodies. S.23 is an absolute and class based exemption, and therefore there is no requirement to demonstrate the harm or public interest considerations in this case.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision, you should write to the Data Protection and Information Officer, Corporate Support and Information Services – Information Compliance & Disclosure Section, Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB or alternatively send an email to information@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Details of the Constabulary's Freedom of Information Complaint Procedures can be found attached to this email.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Lancashire Constabulary. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Bryony Hopkinson
Freedom of Information Disclosure Officer