

## **Drones - 694/12**

Dated: 07 Jun 2011

**Date of request:** 31/08/2012

**Date of response:** 10/09/2012

### **Provision of information held by Northumbria Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act')(FOIA)**

Thank you for your email dated 31 August 2012 in which you made a request for access to certain information which may be held by Northumbria Police.

As you may be aware the purpose of the Act is to allow a general right of access to information held by a Public Authority (including the Police), subject to certain limitations and exemptions.

#### **You asked:**

This is a FOI request in the public interest for information regarding the use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. How many drones do you own, operate or have access to?
2. Kindly provide any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on department use of drones, including on the legal process required (including the retention of information gathered), if any, before operating a drone;
3. Kindly provide any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase and/or use of drones;
4. Kindly provide any records concerning the police force's plans to use drones in the future including the purposes drones are being considered for;
5. How many requests have been made by your police force to the Civil Aviation Authority for a licence to use a drone, and how many of these requests
  - a. have been refused?
  - b. are still outstanding?

#### **In response:**

We have now had the opportunity to fully consider your request and I provide a response for your attention.

As the information you have requested is accessible by other means I have not provided you with a copy of the information and will rely on Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You should therefore consider this a refusal for your request.

I have provided an explanation to this exemption below.

#### **Section 21 (1) - Information accessible by other means**

Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant is exempt information.

Information which answers this request is readily available via the Disclosure Log on the Northumbria Police website - FOI 19/11 refers.

I can confirm that this information is still current. To assist further I have provided the relevant link below

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/foi/disclosurelog/index.asp>

Additionally, Northumbria Police can neither confirm nor deny that they 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.

You may be interested to know that Northumbria Police routinely publish information that has been disclosed by Northumbria Police in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 via the Disclosure Log. The aim of the Disclosure Log is to promote openness and transparency by voluntarily placing information into the public arena.

Whilst it is not possible to publish all responses we will endeavour to publish those where we feel that the information disclosed is in the public interest. The Disclosure Log will be updated once responses have been sent to the requester. I have provided the relevant link below:-

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/foi/disclosurelog/index.asp>

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