

From: freedom.info@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
Sender: jan.mcewan.4218@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
Subject: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request 556/13 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]
Date: Mon, 5 Aug 2013 15:39:06 +0100
To: <chris@statewatch.org>

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

Thank you for your e mail dated July 2013 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:

I would like to know the following:

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?

I am writing to issue a clarification to my recent FOI request - I would like it to cover the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.

In response:

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

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted with the Operations and Crime Department of Northumbria Police.

No information held, Northumbria Police does not currently have, use, borrow or have access to any Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Previous requests regarding this subject area have been submitted and the associated responses are published via our Disclosure Log on the Northumbria Police website.

Additionally Northumbria Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relating to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemption:-

Section 23 (5) Information relating to the Security bodies

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test. To give a statement of the reasons why neither confirming nor denying is appropriate in this case would itself involve the disclosure of exempt information, therefore under Section 17 (4), no explanation can be given. It is therefore our opinion that the balance lies in favour of neither confirming nor denying as to whether any other information is held or not.

None of the above can be viewed as an inference that any other information does or does not exist.

You may be interested to know that Northumbria Police routinely publish information via the Disclosure Log. The aim of the Disclosure Log is to promote openness and transparency by voluntarily placing information into the public arena.

The Disclosure Log contains copies of some of the information that has been disclosed by Northumbria Police in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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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amended) or such other applicable legislation. In particular, you must not re-use this information for any commercial purpose.

How to complain

If you are unhappy with our decision or do not consider that we have handled your request properly and we are unable to resolve this issue informally, you are entitled to make a formal complaint to us under our complaints procedure which is attached.

(See attached file: FOI Complaint Rights.doc)

If you are still unhappy after we have investigated your complaint and reported to you the outcome, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office and request that they investigate to ascertain whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cleugh
Data Protection and Disclosure Advisor
Direct Dial: 0191 2956941

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