

Our Ref: 003225/13



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

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Ext 800 2507
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7 May 2013

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 8 April 2013.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

Does your agency currently own, operate or use any drones or unmanned aerial vehicles?

A) How many such devices does your agency have at its disposal, when were they acquired and from where?

B) What are the make and model of the devices?

C) What equipment are those drones fitted with (i.e. sonar, facial recognition technology) to use?

D) How many times have such devices (drones, unmanned aerial vehicles) been used by your agency in the past year?

E) What were drones used for? (i.e. search by sonar, crowd control, facial recognition)

F) How long are the feeds from drones kept?

G) Are such feeds encrypted in transit?

H) Has any of the data or feeds gleaned from UAV/drones been shared with other agencies? If so, which agencies and how many times?

I) Has any of the data or information gleaned from UAV/drones led to any prosecutions? If so, how many? Please provide any details possible.

J) How many requests has the force made to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to fly drones in the past year? How many such requests have been declined (and how many granted)?

K) How much money has the force spent on the acquisition, maintenance, repair, or upgrade of unmanned aerial vehicles over the past year? If possible, please provide a breakdown by financial year.

L) How much money has the force spent on training personnel to use, repair, or upgrade drones?

M) What percentage of the force's overall budget goes to use of or training for the use of drones over the year?

Has the force used or been granted the use of a drone from an outside agency, contractor or force? Does your force have access to any drones or unmanned aerial vehicles owned by/leased from other forces or agencies?

A) How many drones has the force had access to over the year?

B) From where?

C) What are the make and model of the devices?

D) How many times were those drones deployed for your force's use in investigations or policing in the past year? And for how many separate cases?

E) If possible, what cases were they used for? (i.e. search by sonar, crowd control, facial recognition)

F) What technology were the drones equipped with (i.e. sonar, facial recognition, etc)

G) What was the cost breakdown per use of drones from other agencies or forces or contractors?

H) How long are the feeds from drones kept?

I) Are such records encrypted in transit?

J) Has any of the data or feeds gleaned from such UAV/drones been shared with other agencies? If so, which agencies and how many times?

K) Has any of the data or information gleaned from such UAV/drones led to any prosecutions? If so, how many? Please provide any details possible.

L) How many requests has the force made to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to fly such leased or borrowed or assisting drones over the past year? How many such requests have been declined (and how many granted)?

M) Are there any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on the use of drones by your force and/or officers? Guidelines on their deployment? Guidelines or policies on who operates drones? Please provide copies of all of the above.

If your force does not currently have, use, borrow or have access to any drones:

Does your agency have a plan to introduce such devices? Please provide a timetable if so.

Have there been any meetings to discuss whether to introduce drones? Please provide a copy of all legal opinion, memoranda, briefs, training manuals, emails, and any other documents relating to such plans or meetings.

Have there been any proposals _ successful or unsuccessful_ to acquire or use drones? If so, how many over the past year and from what companies or agencies? Please provide any proposals submitted by vendors, or considered by the force, regarding the purchase or use of drones

Has the force supported or commissioned any consultations into the use of drones or introduction of drones?

A) How much money has the force spent on researching the possibility of procuring or introducing the use of unmanned aerial vehicles?

RESPONSE

Nottinghamshire Police hold no information in relation to any of the questions contained within your request. Nottinghamshire Police does not own or operate any drones and has not made any requests to the Civil Aviation Authority for a licence to use a drone.

Additionally Nottinghamshire Police can neither confirm nor deny by virtue of Section 23(5) that the Force holds any other information relevant to your request.

23(5) 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.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 23(5) of the act being applied.

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

If so, prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision reconsidered is to telephone the case officer that is identified at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Formal Independent Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Nottinghamshire Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you can request an Independent Review.

Upon receipt for a review of the initial request response, an independent audit officer from Information Management will review the request and assess whether it has been satisfactorily processed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Requests for Independent Reviews requests should be made in writing to-

Force Information Manager
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

The Audit officer will record and communicate his/her decision to the information requester within 20 working days.

Appeals

If the findings of the formal independent review do not meet your approval, you can register an appeal against the decision.

An investigation will then take place by the Freedom of Information officer, which will be reported and presented to the Internal Appeal Board. This will include a full account of the reasoning for or against disclosure and the application of any relevant exemptions.

The Internal Appeal Board will consist of at least a member of the Chief Officer Team, a member of the Legal Team and the Force Information Manager.

Appeals should be registered in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

Alternatively E-mail: Freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Or call: 01159672507

Applications to the Information Commissioner

If you then remain dissatisfied, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

Alternatively, Write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Or call: 01625 545700.