

01 August 2013

Chris Jones

chris@statewatch.org

Dear Chris Jones

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20130578

REQUEST

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.

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?

Further clarification following direction to SYP's disclosure log:

In light of the request and response to which you provided a link, I would like to refine my request as follows:

1. Has your force designated a single point of contact (SPOC) for unmanned aerial systems? (to clarify, this was suggested in a letter to forces by Assistant Chief Constable Alan Featherstone, http://www.south-wales.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/355_12-Corr-1.pdf)

RESPONSE

I contacted our Operational Support Service in regarding your request. I have been advised that there is no information held regarding appointment of a SPOC for UAS.

South Yorkshire 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 exemptions:-

Section 23(5) Information relating to the Security bodies - this is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test.

No inference can be taken from this statement that further information does or does not exist.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by following the advice contained in the separate notice enclosed with this correspondence:

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Martha Robinson
Information Compliance Clerk
South Yorkshire Police
Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park
Churchill Way
Sheffield

S35 2PY

Email - foi@southyorks.police.uk

Please note that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide information and statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for the comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

South Yorkshire Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure (copy enclosed). If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Constabulary's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

The South Yorkshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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, South Yorkshire Police, Police Headquarters, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, S9 2EG

Appeal Process for Freedom of Information

Using this process will not affect your right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner. However, it will usually be quicker if matters can be resolved locally using this process.

Who can appeal?

Anyone who has requested information from the Force in writing can appeal. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with your request, you can use the appeal process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to appeal but cannot do so themselves you can appeal on their behalf, but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

What can I appeal about?

You can appeal about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also appeal about the way a request was handled – for example, the time it took to respond, or the way letters were worded.

How do I appeal?

You can appeal by writing, emailing or faxing your appeal/complaint to the address below. To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the request made, such as the reference number, and the reason for your appeal/ complaint.

What happens to my appeal?

Once we have enough details to identify the request you are concerned about, a qualified person, other than the initial decision maker, will deal with the internal review.

How long does it take?

Whatever their conclusion, you will be informed of the result as soon as possible, and in any case within 20 days of submitting your appeal.

If you are still not satisfied, you may then appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Appeal Address

**Information Compliance Unit South Yorkshire Police Professional Standards
Department Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park Churchill Way Sheffield S35 2PY**

Email foi@southyorks.pnn.police.uk