

Dear Sir/Madam

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: RFI 4516**

I write in connection with your request for information which was received on 18th July 2013.

Please find below the response to your request:

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013:

1. Has your force used (in a trial or otherwise) or considered using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)?

**REPLY:** No

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.

**REPLY:** Not applicable

4. Has any sort of plan or timetable been produced by the force in order to make preparations for the introduction of UAVs?

**REPLY:** No

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.

**REPLY:** Not applicable

6. Have any force representatives held discussions with representatives of other police forces in relation to the use of UAVs?

**REPLY:** No

If so, please can you provide:

- a. Dates, times and agendas of the meetings;
- b. Minutes of the meetings.

**REPLY:** Not applicable

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?

**REPLY:** No

a. If so, please provide a copy of the documents provided.

**REPLY:** Not applicable

8. Has your force designated a single point of contact (SPOC) for unmanned aerial systems?

**REPLY:** No

Additionally, West Mercia Police can neither confirm nor deny that we hold any other information relevant to this request, by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23 (5) – Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and therefore there is no requirement to conduct a harm or public interest test

Your attention is drawn to the below which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or telephone the Information Compliance Unit quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Forrest

Information Compliance Unit

Business Assurance and Improvement

West Mercia Police

PO Box 55

Hindlip

Worcester

WR3 8SP

01905 331545 / 331565

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#### COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require West Mercia Police (WMP) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the person that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again -

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the person named at the end of your decision letter.

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

#### Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of WMP made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with WMP to have the decision reviewed. WMP must be notified of your intention to complain within 2 months of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request.

Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

West Mercia Police Headquarters

Information Compliance Unit

Hindlip Hall

Hindlip

PO Box 55

Worcester

WR3 8SP

In all possible circumstances, WMP will aim to respond to your complaint within 2 months.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with WMP if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make 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 application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 01625 545700