

30 August 2013

Dear Mr Jones

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your request for information received 17th June 2013 concerning unmanned aerial vehicles. I apologise for the extremely long delay to this response.

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?

RESPONSE

I am writing to inform you that, despite extensive searches, we have been unable to locate any relevant recorded information. We have never owned an unmanned aerial vehicle or deployed one directly.

From memory, one officer is aware that a blimp was used at the Warwickshire Cricket ground in 2007. The UAV in question was used by the cricket ground and we had access to the live images in their control room.

We also believe that we may have utilised a blimp for the Birmingham (Handsworth) Carnival about five years ago, possibly the 2009 Carnival. However we do not have any documentation to support this and the officer who would have been in charge at the time has since retired.

In addition to the above response West Midlands Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request with regard to an exempt body 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 supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information apply by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

Your attention is drawn to your right to request a re-examination of your case under West Midlands Police review procedure, which can be found at:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/pdf/FOI/Appeals.pdf>

Please note that such an appeal must be received within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sent on behalf of Michelle Richardson

Freedom of Information Unit

Information Services

Tel: 0345 113 5000

ext: 7630 6110

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