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Friday, 28th August 2009

Dear Section 40

FOI Reference No: FOI-2009127/681

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd June 2009 for information regarding the following:

- A) the number of times your police force has authorised the use of or made use of unmanned surveillance drones or UAVs in each of the following periods for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime:
- i) 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2006 ii) 1 Jan 31 - Dec 2007
 - ii) 1 Jan 31 - Dec 2008 ii) 1 Jan 21 - June 2009
- b) the total cost to your force of deploying these drones in each of those time periods (staff costs, rental, fuel, processing of images etc)
- c) the number of unmanned drones or UAVs which are owned by your force.
- d) The names of the organisations from which you have rented/borrowed unmanned drones or UAVs during each of the time periods mentioned above.
- e) A copy of any rules of deployment used by your force during those time periods.
- f) The number of personnel and their rank employed by your force trained to operate or authorise the use of UAVs in each of these time periods
- g) The amount of data measured in gigabytes recorded by the UAVs in each of the time periods.
- h) The names of all the databases which hold any of the information recorded by these UAVs on your behalf

West Yorkshire Police does not hold any information in relation to unmanned surveillance drones, however this present stance does not preclude us from utilising them in the future.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request. This is due to a large volume of Freedom of Information request that are currently being dealt with by West Yorkshire Police.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Janette Mitchell
Freedom of Information Project Officer

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Steven Harding
Head of Information Management

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