



**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ  
London Road  
Devizes

Wiltshire SN10 2DN

Telephone: 101

Direct Dial:01380-733446

Chris Jones

Date 15 August 2013

Your ref

Our ref RFI 2013-351

Reply contact name is **Force Disclosure Decision Maker**

Dear Chris,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, concerning the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted with the Air Operations Unit of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

I am writing to submit a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to know the following:

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

No.

2. If your force has not considered using UAVs, could you state why not?

Wiltshire police make use of the force helicopter therefore a UAV has not been considered.

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.

Please refer to Q2 above.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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.

Please refer to Q2 above.

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.

Please refer to Q2 above.

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.

Yes; there is an ACPO UAS Steering group which meets approximately every 6 months.

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.

It is our understanding that the minutes of the meeting mentioned above will be obtained from the ACPO UAS Steering group direct?

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

The Unit Executive Officer - Air Operations Unit

I would like it to cover the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.

Additionally, Wiltshire police can neither confirm nor deny that they hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemption:

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

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.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

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

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN  
Telephone 101 ext 720 3664

## **Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

### **1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

### **2. How to Request a Review**

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:  
Force Disclosure Manager  
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,  
London Road, Devizes,  
Wiltshire,  
SN10 2DN

Email at [disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk).

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Manager within 42 calendar days (6 weeks) of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

### **3. Review Procedure**

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by the Force Disclosure Manager, who is independent from the original decision maker. The Force Disclosure Manager will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Force Disclosure Manager will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

### **4. Conclusion of the Appeal**

On completion of the review the Force Disclosure Manager will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 01625 545 700  
Fax: 01625 524 510  
Email: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)