



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2012 00103

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Drones

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

How many "drones" (Unmanned Aircraft Systems and/or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) does the force currently have at its disposal?

Answer

None.

Question 2

If none, does the force plan to introduce drones? Please provide details of meetings where this has been discussed.

Answer

No decision has been reached as yet if Drones are to be introduced into PSNI. PSNI can confirm that a number of meetings have taken place with various Government Departments. Details of these meetings were not recorded due to the preliminary nature of this subject area.

Question 3

How many drones has the force had access to over the last three years?

Answer

None.

Question 4

How many times have the drones (if any) been deployed in each of the last three years?

Answer

None.

Question 5

How many requests has the force made to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to fly drones?

Answer

None.

Question 6

How many such requests have been declined?

Answer

Not applicable.

Additionally, Section 17(4) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Refusing Requests for Information, states that a public authority is not obliged to make a statement, under subsection (1) (c) or (3) if, to the extent that, the statement would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt information.

Therefore the PSNI can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemption:

Absolute Exemption

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

In relation to the above exemption, 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) of 23(5).

As this is an absolute exemption and I am therefore not required to complete a public interest test.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.