



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2020-01470

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Drone Calls & Fines

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

For the period 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2020 can you please tell me how many drone/UAV related calls per month have been received and logged by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, with a breakdown of the specific nature of each call?

Answer

Please see spreadsheet attachment.

Please note:

Data in the spreadsheet attachment is based on incidents identified through the following search criteria being applied:

- incident report date 1 January 2020 to 30 June
- where the text 'drone' has been included in the call for service. Attempts have been made to exclude addresses or names including the text 'drone' e.g. Drone's Road from the search criteria, however it is not possible to exclude all such use of the text 'drone' in addresses or names. It is also possible that the term drone has been picked up through misspelling, for example where 'drone' has been typed instead of 'drove'.
- the call for service details have not been read through to establish the context in which the text 'drone' has been used.

This information is based on data extracted from a live recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

Request 2

Also, for the same period 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2020 can you tell me how many drone operators were fined under ANO 94D for failing to register their drone, and under ANO 94F how many drone pilots were fined for not obtaining the necessary competency acknowledgement from the CAA?

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

PSNI currently has two drone related offences specifically:

SB5016392

That you on the [STARTDATE], were in charge of a small unmanned surveillance aircraft which you flew in circumstances prohibited by article 167 of the Air Navigation Order 2009, without obtaining permission from the CAA, Contrary to Article 241(1) and (6) of the Air Navigation order 2009.,

SB5016400

That you on [STARTDATE] without obtaining a permission from CAA, caused a small unmanned surveillance aircraft to be flown in prohibited circumstances contrary to. Contrary to Article 95 of The Air Navigation Order 2016

Both of these offences do not relate to registration or competency acknowledgement from the CAA.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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.