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Aerial Drones

- **Reference Number:** 4039
- **Date released:** 07 September 2012

Request

This is a FOI request in the public interest for information regarding the use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. How many drones do you own, operate or have access to?

2. Kindly provide any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on department use of drones, including on the legal process required (including the retention of information gathered), if any, before operating a drone;

3. Kindly provide any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase and/or use of drones;

3. Kindly provide any records concerning the police force's plans to use drones in the future including the purposes drones are being considered for;

4. How many requests have been made by your police force to the Civil Aviation Authority for a licence to use a drone, and how many of these requests

a. have been refused?
b. are still outstanding??

Response

In accordance with section 1(1) (a) of the Act our response is provided below;

Question 1: None

Question 2: There is no information held.

Question 3: There is no information held

Question 4: None, a) & b) N/A

In addition to the above the Cheshire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information in relation to UAV's. To give a statement of the reasons why neither confirming nor denying is appropriate in this case would itself involve the disclosure of exempt information, therefore under section 17 (4) , no explanation can be given. To the extent that section 23(5) applies, the Cheshire Constabulary has determined that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to neither confirm nor deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not any other information is held.