

[REDACTED]

Date: 3 February 2023
Reference: F0006052

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 13 January 2023, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

I am interested in [a.] the number of registered drone/unmanned aircraft users in the UK, and the growth of this number over time. [b.] I wish to know the proportion of registrations for drones of different types (e.g. size, purpose and/or type of propulsion) and the trend of each group over time.

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the CAA holds some information relevant to your request; if I may I shall address each of your points in turn:

a. the number of registered drone/unmanned aircraft users in the UK, and the growth of this number over time

The following information is taken from The Drone and Model Aircraft Registration & Education Service was only launched in November 2019. The active number of registered users as of 31st January 2023;

-Current Active Drone and Model Aircraft Operator IDs: 214,268
-Current Active Drone and Model Aircraft Flyer IDs: 297,034

Please note, these figures only include valid “active” users as of this date and therefore does not include those who have expired or been deactivated

With respect to your specific request, “*the growth of this over time,*” the CAA does not maintain historical data and therefore it is not possible to under this analysis.

b. the proportion of registrations for drones of different types (e.g. size, purpose and/or type of propulsion) and the trend of each group over time.

It has been determined that the CAA does not hold the requested information in any central easily searchable repository.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Email: foi.requests@caa.co.uk

Whilst it is possible that some information maybe held to locate, retrieve and extract this information from our systems would require a lengthy manual review which would, if undertaken, it is the CAA's estimate would exceed the appropriate limit set out at section 12 of the FOIA.

As your original request is rather broad and wide reaching in nature it is difficult, at this stage, for us to be able to offer any advice or assistance (as required by section 16 of the FOIA) to you as to how to narrow your request under the above-mentioned appropriate limit.

Therefore it maybe help if you are able to narrow the scope of your request down and indicate the type of information you are interested in.

It should be noted that if you did re-submit a reframed question there is still the possibility that this refined request could also be subject to the application of the section 12 provisions (or in-deed any of the other in-built Freedom of Information Act exemptions). If this is the case then of course we will endeavour to continue to assist you as much as possible in order to bring your request under the appropriate limit.

If you do re-submit a request it will be handled as a new request under the appropriate legislation

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

FOI.Requests@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set out below. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=24>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Information Rights Specialist

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;

- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.