

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22 June 2021
Reference: F0005291

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 26 May 2021, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

- (i) *(a) Would you kindly inform me of the total number of people who are now enrolled into the CAA drone registration scheme & that have been issued with a registration identity number, from since the scheme was first opened for registration up to & including 31st March 2021. The total to comprise those who have directly passed the CAA competency test and those who have enrolled through the BMFA competency test & registered via the British Model Flying Association. Should analysis of the data base permit,*
(b) please advise on the total number of people who fly model aircraft within the overall total number of registrations,
(c) the number of registration renewals as from March 2020 & the number of new registrations as from March 2020.
- (ii) *Please provide a statement on future CAA policy regarding the date of introduction & use of remote identification technology applicable to unmanned air systems (UAS) inclusive of model aircraft & to what category of UAS would it be mandatory?*
- (iii) *Assuming the CAA broadly follows UAS remote identification policy already legislated by the Federal Aviation Authority of the USA & the European Union, will the flying of all model aircraft be constrained to designated sites? If so, which Authority will define the location & use of a designated site & for how long will that permission be valid?*

Our response:

Where you have requested recorded information held by the CAA, we have considered your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Civil Aviation Authority

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

Email: foi.requests@caa.co.uk

- (i) (a) The total number of people who are now enrolled into the CAA drone registration scheme since launch is 282,772 Operators & 218,437 Flyers.

218,437 people have directly passed the CAA competency test. You would need to contact the BMFA in relation to the BMFA competency test.

(b) We are unable to differentiate between model aircraft users and drone users from the database.

(c) There were 78,723 renewals and 94,418 new registrations between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

In relation to parts (ii) and (iii) there is no specific remote identification (RID) requirement for model aircraft, especially on designated sites. We are considering this approach for the Electronic conspicuity requirement, but the RID requirement will be based on the category of operation. Requirements for the open category are already defined in the regulations; however, there is no explicit requirement for the specific category and above.

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:-

██████████ [@caa.co.uk](mailto:██████████@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 in the attachment. 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

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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.