

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2020 15:45:57 +0000Authentication
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Please Cease and Desist RPAS on Ash
Sensitivity: High

[REDACTED] – good afternoon, thanks for getting in touch.

I'm very happy for the correspondence to be routed through me; that way I can ensure that my CoC is kept up to date ahead of any formal approaches. I will ask WO [REDACTED] to provide the information highlighted below, noting your deadline, and will await any Qs in the event of further approaches.

Thanks to you and the team for your engagement on this matter. Pls don't hesitate to contact me if there's anything that I can do to sp.

Mr [REDACTED] – pls see below. Grateful if you could pls answer the highlighted Qs below, noting the deadline of 1 Jul 20 set by [REDACTED].

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Tel: [REDACTED] Mil: [REDACTED] SSS: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]

[RAF FP Centre Critical Thinking - through DLE](#)

From: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 June 2020 16:20
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]6@mod.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Please Cease and Desist RPAS on Ash

[REDACTED]

I don't know if you are aware of the detail regarding this FOI however this the response I have received from the DIO Parli team concerning the RPAS tasking at Ash – see e-trail below. As [REDACTED] would you prefer all correspondence routed through you or are you content for the Parli team to contact [REDACTED] direct? We are working to a cut off of 01 July.

Regards

Tel: Mil [REDACTED]; Civ: [REDACTED]; Mob: [REDACTED]; Ops Rm: [REDACTED]. Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mod.uk; [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk

Guiding Principles: My Word is my Bond; Trust but Verify; Willingness to Stop; Procedural Compliance

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2020 16:36
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: 20200626-FOI07166_Due 3 June 2020

Hi [REDACTED],

Many thanks for coming back to me, however I don't believe the below answers the entire FOI question.

The FOI asks for:

1. A list of all drone flights operating from Ash Ranges during times, like today, when the flags are flying for the **period 1/1/2019 to 23/6/2020 inclusive?**
2. Please include:
 - full name (we will be redacted under Data protection)
 - rank of operator
 - affiliated organisation (i.e. police Army, Navy, RAF etc)
 - purpose for flight
 - intended flight path
 - actual flight path and
 - duration of flight for all flights of drones and any other automatised vehicles & aircrafts for the period stated above

I understand that there will be some exemptions here, such as for Data protection which is an exemption we do not need to justify.

However if we refuse to provide any other information such as the details for the intended flight path and actual flight path into the public domain we need to conduct an internal public interest test (PIT), and in doing so we require a strong argument as to why we are withholding this information. Therefore, could I ask you to please provide me with specific reasoning as to why we should not release certain information and which information you wish to withhold and if we were to release this information what damage this may cause to the Department.

Regardless of whether this information is going to be released or not, under the FOI Act, the DIO secretariat will still need to see any information which falls into the remit of this FOI response for audit trail purposes and will subsequently assess the information and make a decision as to whether an exemption applies or not.

Could I ask for this information by COP 3 July 2020 please.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk

Please address all official Ministerial business to: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk

Due to covid-19 I am working from home until further notice.

In line with the latest guidance, I am working offline where possible to ease the pressure on the IT network, so I will only be checking emails and Skype periodically. This means I might not respond as promptly as usual, so if you need my attention more urgently, please call me on [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2020 14:53
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Please Cease and Desist RPAS on Ash

[REDACTED]
PSB
Reply from [REDACTED] RPAS Pilot

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Tel: Mil: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk
Skype IM & Voice Call: [REDACTED] Skype
Website: [DIO Website](#)
Twitter: \u8239 ? [@mod_dio](#)
Read DIO's blog [DIO'S blog](#)

Guiding Principles: **My Word is my Bond; Trust and Verify; Willingness to Stop; Procedural Compliance**



Ash RSO's: [ASH RSO's](#)

JSP 907: [JSP 907](#)

BAMS: [BAMS](#)

From: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2020 14:41
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Please Cease and Desist RPAS on Ash

Sir's, [REDACTED]

As the Suitably Qualified Experienced Person Current and Competent (SQEPCC) I can confirm that at no time did the Military RPAS being flown by my self-breach any CAA regulations or was flown to intimidate or otherwise contravene civil rights of privacy.

As a Military RPAS Operator and the Chief Instructor for FP RPAS I do not fall under the rules of the CAA, I operate under MAA. I am NQE qualified and I also have a Level 4 diploma in the Operations of RPAS for Commercial use.

As Ash Ranges fall within Defence Training Estates (MOD) my permissions to fly cover all UK Training areas. As the lead for FP RPAS the RAF FP Force operate primarily within RAF Main Operating Bases (MOB) and have authority to operate within restricted airspace.

I notified the Airspace coordinator at RAF Swanwick by submitting a Notification of RPAS Operations which informs all CAA and MAA that we would be operating RPAS at the locations stipulated. This isn't normally required as Range Controls on all UK training areas have there own procedures, this was in fact an extra layer of safety.

I can confirm that at no time did the RPAS leave the confines of the Defence Estate perimeter, it can due to height 400ft Max appear to be overhead so I can understand that [REDACTED] assumed it was over his property if he is located close to the perimeter.

I can confirm that at no point did any video or still photos were taken of any residence outside the Defence Estates, and at no point was the camera system used to look outside the perimeter. We fully respect the rights and privacy of all and at no time breach any liberty.

We pride ourselves on our ability to operate within the regulations in order to insure Safe and compliant procedures.

I am happy to provide any further answers should the need be required.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tele: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] | DII: [REDACTED] @mod.gov.uk | [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 June 2020 13:58

To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Please Cease and Desist RPAS on Ash

Thanks for sight [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will have all the required details to show that the operation of the RPAS was entirely legal and conducted with appropriate consideration of the surroundings. It seems to me, from the original email, that [REDACTED] believes that the flights were conducted deliberately to intimidate him - it might be that in due course release of emails detailing the request for an RPAS trial for range clearance might be needed, so I would ensure that you save them somewhere. [REDACTED] may well have had to respond to this sort of complaint before and have standard lines available. Let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sent from my iPad

On 25 Jun 2020, at 13:27, [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]
Please see below, FOI request from a member of the public who lives near Ash

Back ground: the Ash complex (ranges and technical areas) has been closed off to the public and this has caused some friction with a small group in Ash. They have a face book page and slate us any time they can.

From the e-mail below is clear the member of public is not happy because a member of DIO said "DIO are watching" not clever

I have informed the commander [REDACTED] that I was with the team at every stage on the range and we were working within the guideline for RPAS and out SOI, he has seen the RA and notice to the CAA

I also told him that the RAPS pilot was well aware of his surrounding and even made the comment that he cant go over the houses, however, at a couple of hundred feet how could the resident know where the RPAS was, he probably heard the noise and then glimpsed it as it went over the range.

[REDACTED]
Can you look at the e-mail and give me any detail you can that I can give to HQ to satisfy the FOI

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Tel: Mil: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk
Skype IM & Voice Call: [REDACTED] Skype
Website: [DIO Website](#)
Twitter:\u8239 ? [@mod_dio](#)
Read DIO's blog [DIO'S blog](#)

Guiding Principles: **My Word is my Bond; Trust and Verify; Willingness to Stop; Procedural Compliance**

<image003.jpg>

Ash RSO's: [ASH RSO's](#)

JSP 907: [JSP 907](#)

BAMS: [BAMS](#)

From: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2020 13:02
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Please Cease and Desist

[REDACTED]

We will need to be watertight on this

Regards

[REDACTED]

Civ: [REDACTED] | Mil: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk
Skype IM & Voice Call:
Website: www.gov.uk/dio/
Twitter: @mod_dio
Read DIO's blog: <https://insidedio.blog.gov.uk/>

<image002.jpg>

From: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2020 13:00
To: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Please Cease and Desist

[REDACTED]

Can I forward this to the RPAS pilot to forewarn him if this gets out of hand, I don't want them to get any flak for what I asked them to do

I can assure you we had no interest on anything outside the wire and the RPAS pilot was aware of all the rules with regards Public, private and no fly areas

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk
Skype IM & Voice Call: [REDACTED] Skype
Website: [DIO Website](#)
Twitter:\u8239 ? @mod_dio
Read DIO's blog [DIO'S blog](#)

Guiding Principles: **My Word is my Bond; Trust and Verify; Willingness to Stop; Procedural Compliance**

<image003.jpg>

Ash RSO's: [ASH RSO's](#)

JSP 907: [JSP 907](#)

BAMS: [BAMS](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 June 2020 22:52

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [mod.gov.uk](#)>;
[REDACTED] [@mod.gov.uk](#)>;
[REDACTED] [@mod.gov.uk](#)>;
[REDACTED] [mod.gov.uk](#)>;
[REDACTED] [mod.gov.uk](#)>;

Subject: Please Cease and Desist

Dear [REDACTED],

Today a drone was spotted by myself and a number of local residents taking off from the Ash Range complex, leaving the area covered by the RDA and flying over mine and a number of other residential properties. I know that the DIO disapprove of the AshRanges website and our campaign to get the whole truth to be heard in relations to Ash Ranges not the DIO's warped view on the law, byelaws and what is both ethical and moral.

I do NOT appreciate the DIO's actions today, as the next the next action by the DIO, to threaten myself and my rights as a law abiding tax-payer. When i met [REDACTED], a number of weeks ago he was eager to remind me that the DIO are watching and i have an independent witness of this.

So today's illegal act by the DIO of flying a drone from the Ash Range Complex over my house to intimidate me at approx 10:45am today will not be tolerated. In addition to this action being in breach of my privacy and human rights this is in contravention of not only the very byelaws you are trying to hide behind with the closure of the ranges, but also in contravention of CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) rules on no fly zones around airports. In this case Farnborough.

I will be in contact with the Police regarding this matter and interpret this alongside previous behavior as threats to my privacy and safety.

I am emailing to ask you politely to cease and desist all acts which are designed to intimidate or otherwise contravene the rights of myself and my family.

I doubt you will respond to this as my experience shows that the DIO think they are beyond the law and oversight from MPs or tax payers. Whatever you think i will not allow your abuse of power to allow you to intimidate myself or others around me.

The DIO's behavior exhibited today and since I started my website is not just illegal but unethical and immoral.

You will see that i have copied in MPs, local councillors and even a police officer.

If you would like to apologise please reach out to me on this email address, I understand you cant control everything that happens on your watch. However, if not i will interpret your silence as acceptance of guilt.

You are accountable to the state

I look forward to hopefully hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

(No need to give you any more details as you clearly already know where i live).