



Freedom of Information Internal Review Request 983-20

Original Request: 840-20

Please can you tell me if the British Transport police has used drones (UAVs) during 2019-20, either operationally or in testing?

If drones have been used please confirm

- a) the dates of their use**
- b) The purpose for using them**

Review Request:

I am writing to request an internal review of British Transport Police's handling of my FOI request 'Use of drones 2019-20'.

1) I do not agree with your assessment that disclosing the company supplying BTP's drones would pose any security risk. And it is in the public interest to know how public money is spent, and which companies are benefiting from public contracts. Indeed, other police forces have chosen to make this information publicly available. For example here <https://www.kent.police.uk/foi-ai/kent-p...>

2) You have supplied me figures showing how many times drones have been used on a month by month basis. But you have not told me the reason for each incident.

The general list of justifications for the use of drones you have provided is not sufficient

Please disclose the purpose of deployment for each incident of drone use.

RESPONSE

I have today conducted a review of the response in an impartial manner.

I have reviewed the conduct of your request and the response issued. Information was sourced in respect of this request from our Special Operations department.

In respect of point (1) the advice received by the FOI team was that disclosing the specific manufacturer or make of the drones used would allow the potential for counter measures to be taken or developed against the use of the drones and this would therefore be likely to prejudice our law enforcement functions if disclosed.

In view of the harm articulated, the FOI officer providing the response considered that the public interest balance was in favour of withholding the information. The harm has

been clearly articulated and the public interest factors have been set out and includes the specific point you have made about the interest in knowing how and where public money is spent. I do not see any reason to disagree with the balance of public interest as described in the response.

In respect of point (2), I consider that the response issued complied with your request as written, but clearly not as intended. As we had not previously considered the information for disclosure in this format, I have considered this to constitute a new request and can confirm that we hold the information described and are able to disclose in full.

My decision therefore is to uphold the response issued. Please find the further information requested on the table below.

Please note that there was one date previously inadvertently included on the previous data set that was actually a training only flight but had not been removed. I apologise for this – the date has been highlighted in red below.

Date	Incident
04/01/2019	Overwatch
11/01/2019	Trespass
11/01/2019	Trespass
15/01/2019	Vulnerable
15/01/2019	Overwatch
18/01/2019	Vulnerable
25/01/2019	Trespass
27/01/2019	Graffiti
01/02/2019	
03/02/2019	Overwatch
25/02/2019	Trespass
30/03/2019	Trespass
29/04/2019	Trespass
15/05/2019	Fire
19/05/2019	Trespass
20/05/2019	Trespass
26/05/2019	Graffiti
26/05/2019	Trespass
27/05/2019	Graffiti
28/05/2019	Graffiti
02/06/2019	Vulnerable Person
05/06/2019	Trespass
27/06/2019	Vulnerable Person
28/06/2019	Graffiti
09/07/2019	Trespass
06/09/2019	Trespass

13/09/2019	Trespass
15/09/2019	Overwatch
08/11/2019	Trespass
27/03/2020	Trespass
28/03/2020	Graffiti
29/03/2020	Trespass
05/04/2020	Trespass
08/04/2020	Overwatch
11/04/2020	Trespass
14/04/2020	Graffiti
21/04/2020	Trespass
23/04/2020	Suicidal Person
24/04/2020	Suicidal Person
24/04/2020	Suicidal Person
26/04/2020	Overwatch
15/06/2020	Graffiti
24/06/2020	Trespass
29/06/2020	Overwatch
01/07/2020	Trespass
11/07/2020	Overwatch
11/07/2020	Trespass
20/07/2020	Trespass

Simon Fuller
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