

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2037
Date: 10th November 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing a response.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- 1. How many drones are owned/leased/used by your police force? These may also be known as Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).**

Police Scotland owns 7 drones.

- 2. Have your drones been deployed for the purposes of monitoring protests, large events and/or COVID-19 social distancing?**

Drones have been developed to provide air support to Commanders during the policing of a variety of operations and incidents including parades, protests and football matches. Police Scotland **did not** deploy drones to monitor persons during Covid-19 social distancing.

- 3. Please provide the name and/or a copy of the policy that guides the storage of footage captured from drones.**

The Police Scotland [Record Retention SOP](#) is available online.

- 4. Please attach any policies, handbooks, warrant procedures and/or monitoring mechanisms that guide your deployments of drones. This can be policies used before the deployment of a pre-planned or unplanned deployment, or the assessment procedure that comes after the deployment.**
- 5. Please attach your latest Surveillance Camera Commissioner's (SCC) Self-Assessment Tool for drones.**

Police Scotland has a RPAS Code of Practice which aligns to the guiding principles of the Surveillance Camera code of Practice and is reviewed annually. A copy is available [online](#).

6. Please attach your latest Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for drones.

A copy is attached. The document has been subject to minor redaction in terms of sections 35(1)(a)&(b) and 38(1)(b) of the Act.

7. Before a pre-planned drone deployment at a large event, which requires surveillance, how do you alert the public that drones are in operation? Please attach any photographs, website links or twitter links that show the alert to the public.

Police Scotland will alert the public that a police drone will be used prior to a large event via social media – Twitter - @polscotair.

Previous tweets can be read on this site. Tweets are then shared by other Police Scotland accounts to ensure maximum exposure.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.