5th April 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190522

REQUEST

1) How many drone-related (ie unmanned aerial vehicle, or small unmanned aircraft-related) crimes have been recorded by your force in each calendar year between 1st Jan 2014 and 28th Feb 2019? Please exclude thefts of drones.

2) Of those recorded crimes, for each calendar year, how many have involved a possible threat to aircraft safety?
Should this require a free text search, please use the terms:
Drone, UAV, unmanned aerial vehicle, unmanned aircraft, airfield, airport, airspace, air traffic, plane, helicopter.

3) How many arrests for drone-related offences has your force made in each calendar year between 1st Jan 2014 and 28th Feb 2019? Please exclude thefts of drones.

4) Of these arrests, for each calendar year, how many related to a possible threat to aircraft safety?

5) Where an arrest was made, what was the outcome? (eg charged, released under investigation, no further action etc)

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as ‘crimes’.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

They were able to provide me with data, I have checked each one to make sure they are relevant to your criteria and have compiled the attached spreadsheet.

CMS(II) Data – I have included single record level data where the words ‘DRONE’, ‘% UNMANNED AERIAL %’, '% UAV %' and '% UNMANNED AIR%’ have been recorded within the circumstances of the offence free text field, recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2014 and 05-Dec-2017. A search was also carried out for the words %

UNMANNED AERIAL %, '% UAV %' and '% UNMANNED AIR%' which resulted in a nil return.

I have excluded 'SHOPLIFTING' from the data to help exclude theft of drones however other offences such as Burglary and Other Thefts etc. will need to be reviewed individually.

The circumstances of each offence will need to be reviewed to establish if relevant to the request.

CONNECT Data - I have included single record level data where the word 'DRONE', '% UNMANNED AERIAL %', '% UAV %' and '% UNMANNED AIR%' have been recorded within the initial MO, recorded for CONNECT crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 28-Feb-2019 .

I have excluded 'SHOPLIFTING' from the data to help exclude theft of drones however other offences such as Burglary and Other Thefts etc. will need to be reviewed individually.

The initial mo text will need to be reviewed to establish if relevant to the request.