



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number:** 08/2016

**Date:** 31 March 2016

### **Request:**

You have asked the Board to supply the following information:

- At a meeting of PB committee last year the Committee noted a paper providing Members with a list of organisations within Northern Ireland who have been granted permission by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to operate Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA). Would it be possible to get a copy of this list?
- January's minutes make reference to correspondence from the Committee dated 14 December 2015 to the PSNI on the matter of SUA's. Would it be possible to get a copy of this correspondence and any response the Board received from the PSNI on the matter?

### **Answer**

Please find attached a list of organisations within Northern Ireland who have been granted permission by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to operate Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA). This information was received by the Board on 9 March 2015 and is therefore perhaps not up to date.

I understand that this information is also published by the Civil Aviation Authority. You may find more up to date information on the CAA website.

Please also find attached a copy of correspondence dated 14 December 2015 on the matter of SUA.s referred to in January's Performance Committee minutes. All redactions made to this document are to protect personal information in line with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. There was no follow up correspondence from the PSNI, as PSNI had been invited to attend a future meeting of the Performance Committee to discuss SUA.

If you have queries about this request or the decision please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish

to make a complaint or request a review you should write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Waterside Tower  
31 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG

email: [foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
3rd Floor  
14 Cromac Place  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB.

Telephone: - 0303 1231114  
Email: - [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

Please be advised that all Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information will be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk).

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

The list below represents the list of SUA operators in the Belfast (BT) Post Code area as at March 2015.

1. Colin Williams Photography
2. UME (NI) Ltd t/a Trimvale Aviation
3. PSNI
4. Cinecopters LLP
5. Gerald McGivern
6. Aquila UAS Ltd
7. High Perceptions
8. MacMillan Media
9. Drone Vision
10. Skyland Media
11. Skytask Aerial Imaging
12. Emerald Horizon
13. Elevated Imaging Systems
14. Blackstaff Ecology Ltd
15. Flying Media Ltd

**Jonathan Craig MLA**  
Chair of Performance Committee

**Date:** 14 December 2015

[REDACTED]  
Head of Branch, C4 Specialist Operations Branch  
Castlereagh PSNI

Dear [REDACTED]

**PSNI OPERATIONAL USE OF SUA: 1 JANUARY 2015**

Thank you for your previous correspondence in relation to the PSNI operational use of SUA, which was considered at the November meeting of the Board's Performance Committee

Members noted a number of serious concerns in relation to your letter dated 12 October 2015. Members noted that all three systems were fully operational until June 2014, when PSNI started experiencing problems. You may be aware that a detailed report briefing on the use of SUA was provided to the Committee in February 2015 by [REDACTED]. The issues raised in your letter were not addressed in this report; Members also noted the continuing problems with the Shrike platform.

Accordingly, Members have requested that you attend a future meeting of the Performance Committee to clarify a number of issues in relation to the operational use of SUA. Could I ask you to contact the Board's Director of Policy, Amanda Stewart to discuss your attendance at a future meeting of the Performance Committee?

In addition, I understand that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) reports on the PSNI's operation of SUA annually. I would be grateful if you could supply me with a copy of the latest CAA report in order that it can be shared with Committee Members.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**JONATHAN CRAIG MLA**  
Chair of Performance Committee

cc ACC W Kerr



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