

[REDACTED]

Date: 11 September 2024  
Reference: F0006973

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 23 August 2024, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

*Would you please be able to provide the following information:*

*1. The number of drone operators in the UK who applied for a Flyer ID in the last 5 years (broken down by individual calendar year if possible)*

*2. The number of drone operators in the UK who applied for an Operator ID in the last 5 years (ideally also broken down by individual calendar year if possible)*

Your request has been considered in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the CAA holds information within scope of the above request; if I may I shall each of your points in turn:

*1. The number of drone operators in the UK who applied for a Flyer ID in the last 5 years (broken down by individual calendar year if possible)*

New Operator ID registrations in the last 5 years, as of 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024\*:

| Year  | New (Ind) | New (Org) |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 2019  | 71,347    | 3,192     |
| 2020  | 99,090    | 1,403     |
| 2021  | 77,528    | 1,794     |
| 2022  | 64,831    | 2,133     |
| 2023  | 69,091    | 2,694     |
| 2024* | 59,494    | 1,937     |

*2. The number of drone operators in the UK who applied for an Operator ID in the last 5 years (ideally also broken down by individual calendar year if possible)*

New Flyer ID registrations in the last 5 years, as of 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2024\*:

| Year | New (Ind) | New (Minor) |
|------|-----------|-------------|
| 2019 | 80,661    | 868         |

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH6 0YR. [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

Email: [foi.requests@caa.co.uk](mailto:foi.requests@caa.co.uk)

|       |        |       |
|-------|--------|-------|
| 2020  | 91,458 | 1,996 |
| 2021  | 85,501 | 2,037 |
| 2022  | 73,423 | 1,683 |
| 2023  | 79,501 | 1,989 |
| 2024* | 66,126 | 1,746 |

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

FOI.Requests@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set out below. A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office  
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF  
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at FOI - Freedom of Information ([caa.co.uk](http://caa.co.uk)).

Yours sincerely

**Communications & Engagement Team**  
Information Rights Specialist  
Civil Aviation Authority



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*At the CAA we respect agile working so, while it suits me to send this now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.*

Please consider our environment. Think before printing.

## CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;

- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.