

[REDACTED]

Date: 21 March 2024
Reference: F0006734

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 22 February 2024, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). For reference your original enquiry was as follows:

Please may I request the following information on number of active operators and flyers of drones registered with CAA:

For each year 2019-2023 on a consistent snapshot date, or for whatever subset of those years is available

- 1. Total number of Active operators (If possible: of which organisations) (If possible: of which individuals)*
- 2. Total number of Active flyers (If possible: of which 13+ years) (If possible: of which under 13 years)*
- 3. Total number of Active Remote Pilot Competency Qualification Holders*
- 4. Total number of Active Specific Category Operational Authorisation Holders If possible and convenient, it would be excellent to receive this data as an Excel spreadsheet.*

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 enquiry; if I may I shall address each of your points in turn:

- 1. Total number of Active operators (If possible: of which organisations) (If possible: of which individuals)*

FLYER TOTALS	New (Ind)	New (Minor)	Renewal (Ind)	Renewal (Minor)
2019	80,677	941	0	0
2020	91,477	2,106	0	0
2021	85,513	2,037	2,289	0

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Email: foi.requests@caa.co.uk

2022	73,438	1,683	22,990	48
2023	79,521	1,989	34,694	97

2. Total number of Active flyers (If possible: of which 13+ years) (If possible: of which under 13 years)

OPERATOR TOTALS	New (Ind)	New (Org)	Renewal (Ind)	Renewal (Org)
2019	71,361	3,200	0	0
2020	99,148	1,405	45,367	2,169
2021	77,547	1,798	103,538	2,609
2022	64,852	2,135	123,829	3,326
2023	69,126	2,694	137,662	4,076

3. Total number of Active Remote Pilot Competency Qualification Holders

	General Visual Line of Sight Certificate Multi-rotor	General Visual Line of Sight Certificate Fixed Wing	A2 Certificate of Competency
2020	1183	25	1738
2021	1850	76	6844
2022	975	42	1987
2023	543	13	652
Totals	4551	156	11221

Please note the CAA is reliant on Recognised Assessment Entities reporting the information on a monthly basis. The information provided is, therefore, the information held by the CAA as provided to us.

4. Total number of Active Specific Category Operational Authorisation Holders If possible and convenient, it would be excellent to receive this data as an Excel spreadsheet

2780; please note this figure is in a constant state of flux and is therefore considered correct only at the time our systems were investigated (that being 21 March 2024).

This figure does not include any >25Kg Model aircraft authorisations as this is now included within the LMAs Article 16 authorisation through the permit process)

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).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Information Rights Specialist

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.