




Ministry  
of Defence



DESSec-FOI@mod.gov.uk 

Defence Equipment & Support  
Maple 0a #2043  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH 

Our Reference: FOI2020/12693

Date: 15 December 2020

Mr Chris Cole  
chris@dronewars.net

Dear Mr Cole,

Thank you for your email dated 18 November 2020, which is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

*Please can I ask, under the Freedom of Information Act, for*

*a) A list of accidents (according to Air Safety Information Management System or equivalent) involving Watchkeeper and Reaper UAVs since 1 Oct 2019 until present. Please can the response include: 1. Date of accident; 2. Location of accident; 3. Cause of accident; 4. Aircraft type; 5. Tail number/serial number of aircraft; 6. Status of the aircraft after incident (for example write off, withdrawn from service, repaired and returned to service, etc.) and where appropriate 7. Repair category.*

*b) The location of UK Reaper Serial No. ZZ205 that was under repair at Poway in Oct 2019 - that is, whether it remains awaiting repair or whether it has been returned to the fleet?*

I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

- a)
1. Date of accident: 14 October 2020.
  2. Location of accident: RAF Akrotiri.
  3. Cause of accident: The cause of the accident is currently under investigation by the Defence Air Investigation Branch.
  4. Aircraft type: Watchkeeper.
  5. Tail number/serial number of aircraft: WK044.
  6. Status of the aircraft after incident: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the organisation responsible for categorising the damage to the air vehicle has been unable to travel to RAF Akrotiri to assess the air vehicle. Pending receipt of the formal categorisation, a decision will be made on the future status of WK044.
  7. Repair category: See answer to question 6.
- b) Reaper ZZ205 has been repaired and returned to the fleet.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,  
DE&S Secretariat Parliamentary