



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Our Ref: 264728
Your Ref:

DATE

Neil MacKinnon

Dear Mr MacKinnon,

Drone registration scheme

Thank you for your email of 02 August 2019 about the upcoming registration scheme for unmanned aircraft flyers. I am responding to you as a member of the Drones Team at the Department for Transport.

As mentioned previously, the Government is supportive of the model aircraft community and acknowledges the good safety record fostered by model aircraft flyers.

As you are aware the upcoming registration and competency testing requirements for all users of unmanned aircraft weighing between 250g and 20kg will become mandatory on 30 November 2019. The Government first stated its intention to create a registration and education scheme in 2017 in its response to its public consultation on the future of drones in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/benefits-of-drones-to-the-uk-economy>.

This scheme is driven by the need to ensure that our airspace is shared safely between manned and unmanned aircraft, and that unmanned aircraft are not flown in a way that puts people, their property or their privacy at risk. It will aim to increase accountability and improve awareness of the rules and regulations, helping to reduce the misuse of unmanned aircraft and decrease the risk of accidents.

Throughout the development of the registration and education scheme, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has engaged with a wide range of users to

ensure that it fully understands the needs of those who will be using it. Members of model flying associations, including the BMFA, have been involved in the programme of user testing and the CAA is taking their feedback into account as it continues to develop the scheme.

In addition to the scheme, the Government has already taken action to raise awareness of the rules amongst unmanned aircraft operators and the general public, working with the CAA and our key stakeholders. The Government has also announced its intention to introduce an Unmanned Aircraft Bill which will include new police powers to help tackle the misuse of unmanned aircraft. This is part of a package to address the safety and security challenges unmanned aircraft pose.

I take your point on meeting with the BFMA to address this issue. I can assure you that discussions between the CAA, model aircraft associations and the Department will continue, to ensure that we retain and strengthen the UK's strong aviation safety record, whilst considering the needs of all unmanned aircraft flyers.

Thank you for writing in with your concerns.

Yours sincerely,
The Drones Team.