

27 February 2019

LGOIMA No. 8140004065
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Allen Reynolds
By Email: fyi-request-9388-050fdabf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Allen

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

Drone flying in Auckland Council Parks

I refer to your request which we received on 13 January 2019, regarding information relating to drone flying in Auckland Council Parks. I also refer to my email of 13 February 2019, extending the timeframe for us to respond to your request. Thank you for your patience while we have worked on this response. Our response to your questions is as follows:

Has Auckland Council measured, assessed, surveyed or otherwise gathered and recorded data on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) flying in Council parks and public spaces?

In order to respond to your request, we have consulted with council's Parks Sports and Recreation department to provide related information. I have been advised that Auckland Council has not commissioned any research into drone use in parks.

For completeness, we have checked with the following council units/departments who have all confirmed they have not carried out or commissioned any research in this area:

- Parks Services, Parks, Sport and Recreation Directorate
- Parks and Recreation Policy Team, Community and Social Policy Directorate
- Service Strategy and Integration Unit, Community Services Directorate
- Economic and Social Research and Evaluation Team, Research, Investigation and Monitoring Unit

The Licensing and Regulatory Compliance Team from the Regulatory Services directorate has confirmed that they had received one complaint about drone flying in a Rosedale park. The nature of the complaint was deemed beyond nuisance under the bylaw and a police matter, as the details implied endangerment of public safety. However, due to the lack of information from the anonymous complainant it was not possible for the council to take any further action.

Has Auckland Council specifically permitted, authorised or in any other way allowed the use of any Council park or public space for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) flying events?

As per the council's guidelines, individual recreational use of drones does not require a permit if it is within the council guidelines and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations.

Any drone use outside the council guidelines would require landowner approval from the Stakeholder and Land Advisory Team within the council's Community Facilities department, they have confirmed that since the CAA regulations required landowner approval, nine requests have been received, four of which were declined.

Screen Auckland issues permits for drone use for commercial filming in parks. I have been advised that no records are held by Screen Auckland relating specifically to drone use during Auckland Council-permitted filming.

The events team from the council's Arts Community and Events (ACE) department has confirmed that they have not issued permits for any dedicated, large-scale event specifically for drone flying. However, they do consider requests for the use of drones as part of other events, primarily for the purposes of recording the event.

I have been advised that about 2,400 council film permits have been issued and 6,000 event requests since 1 January 2015. To provide you the specific information on when permission was given to allow the use of a drone as part of an event, or any permitted shoot at parks, would involve a manual review of all film permit or event requests. Therefore, in accordance with section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), some of the information you have requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We have considered whether fixing a charge for the request or extending the timeframe of the request would enable the request to be granted in accordance with section 17A(1) of LGOIMA . However, given the volume of information we are likely to retrieve if the searches were conducted, we do not believe that charging for the information or extending the time limit would allow us to grant your request in this instance.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140004065. I also wish to apologise for the delay in getting this response to you and draw your attention to your right to seek a review from the Office of the Ombudsmen about this extension.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Hua
Privacy and LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services