

2019 Drone Registration Scheme: Charge Proposal Consultation Document

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Chapter 1

Executive Summary

- 1.1 In 2018, the UK Government decided to mandate a drone registration and education scheme in the UK to strengthen the accountability of drone users and their awareness of how to fly their drones safely. This requirement is now established in UK law and followed a Government consultation on a range of drone policy proposals. A number of other countries worldwide already have or are developing a drone registration scheme. It is also expected to become a requirement under wider international law shortly.
- 1.2 All those in the UK operating drones or model aircraft between 250 grams and 20 kilograms must register by the end of November 2019. From the same period, remote pilots will be required to take an online safety test. Failure to comply with these rules could lead to a fine of £1,000¹.
- 1.3 The CAA has been tasked by the Government with developing and operating this registration and education scheme. Since summer 2018, the CAA has been developing the technology solution for the registration scheme, with input from stakeholders and the Department for Transport (DfT). The design principles and core processes for the registration scheme are explained in more detail in chapter 2 of this document. The registration scheme will require drone users and model aircraft operators, whether professional or leisure user, to register and undertake on-line education and testing about drone safety rules. The requirement to register will not replace CAA's existing processes for commercial drone users to securing relevant permissions (Permission for Commercial Operation)².
- 1.4 The CAA is planning to open the registration scheme with effect from 1 October 2019. This will enable all those that need to register to do so by the 30 November 2019 as required under the UK Air Navigation Order (the legal instrument that creates the legal obligation to register).
- 1.5 This consultation is about the proposed charge on drone users and model aircraft flyers to cover the costs of running the service. The Government has provided a significant amount of taxpayer funding to cover the costs of developing the scheme up until 1 October 2019. From that date onwards, the

¹ Paragraph 1.20, Taking Flight: The Future of Drones in the UK Government Response Department for Transport, January 2019, link to full document is [here](#)

² PfCO – A Permission for Commercial Operation, the legal document you need to operate a drone commercially