

Danger Areas for Unmanned Air System Operations from Predannack – Post Implementation Review

CAP 2109

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Contents

Contents	3
Executive summary	5
Scope and background of the PIR	6
What is a Post Implementation Review?	6
Background to our conclusions in this PIR Decision	6
Conditions attached to the CAA's decision to approve the change.	7
Relevant events since change (if any)	7
Data collected for the purpose of the PIR	8
Sources of Information	8
Objectives and anticipated impacts	9
The original proposal and its objectives	9
Anticipated Impacts	9
CAA assessment	10
Operational Assessment	10
Safety	10
Operational Feedback	10
Air Navigation Service Provision	10
Utilisation and Track Keeping	10
Traffic	10
Infringements and Denied Access	11
Letters of Agreement	11
Environmental Assessment	11
Community Stakeholder observations	11
International Obligations	11
Ministry of Defence Operations	12
Any other impacts	12
Conclusion	12
Note on plain language	12

Annex A – Information From Sponsor	13
Sponsor’s Initial Letter	13
Follow-Up Email Chain	15

Executive summary

1. The CAA's airspace change process is a seven-stage mechanism that is set out in detail in CAP 725¹/CAP1616². Under this process, on 28th September 2018 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) submitted to the CAA an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) developed by Royal Navy Air Station Culdrose (RNAS Culdrose) to implement changes to the military Danger Areas around The Lizard in Cornwall. The aim of this ACP was to facilitate the operation of Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) ("drones") over the sea to support military exercises and training. Current UK regulations require that any UAS operated Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVOLS) be operated within segregated airspace – the activation of a Danger Area provides that segregation.
2. The proposals were accepted by the CAA on 12th April 2019³ and implemented on 18th July 2019. The CAA started the Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the impact of its decision and the implemented change on 18th November 2020. The content and outcome of the review process by the CAA is discussed in detail in this report including its annex.
3. On 2 January 2018 the CAA introduced a new process for making a decision whether or not to approve proposals to change airspace design. Irrespective of whether the CAA decision to approve the change was made under the previous process (set out in CAP 725), we will conduct all Post Implementation Reviews in accordance with the process requirements of CAP1616. However, when assessing the expected impacts against the actual impacts we will use the methodology adopted at the time of the original CAA decision in order to do so.
4. During the review process, the CAA considered the formal response from the Sponsor which is contained in the Sponsor's documents contained at Annex A:
 - Letter of 11/12/20
 - Follow-up email of 18/01/21

¹ <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=11&mode=detail&id=395>

² <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=11&mode=detail&id=8127>

³ Decision formally published as CAP 1785: <https://www.caa.co.uk/cap1785>