



Cornwall IFCA unmanned aerial vehicle and drone policy

Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority may employ the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), or drone, with attached imaging equipment for the following purposes:

- To observe and record fishing activities, to gather evidence which the Authority may use to assess whether they are in compliance with relevant fisheries and environmental legislation;
- To record the presence of fishing vessels and fishing gear used within the district, to assist the Authority with its fisheries and environmental management duties;
- To record the marine environment, including flora and fauna, to assist the Authority with its fisheries and environmental management duties.

UAV and drone flight operations will be carried out in a professional capacity and in compliance with relevant legislation, including UK Civil Aviation Authority rules.

The Authority may hire a professional UAV or drone operator to fly a UAV or drone and to record images. Where this service is used for compliance and enforcement purposes, the drone pilot will be accompanied by an officer who will monitor live camera images and direct where the UAV or drone should be flown to observe a fishery or fishing related activity.

It is the responsibility of any contracted UAV or drone operator to ensure all necessary licences, permissions and insurance are in place when carrying out marine environmental survey or fishery observation tasks for Cornwall IFCA.

Images may be recorded and downloaded to a secure UK computer network, for viewing on another occasion.

Where images are recorded for investigatory and potential prosecution purposes, the routine viewing of them will only be allowed by Cornwall IFCA officers, or a person acting in a legal capacity on behalf of Cornwall IFCA. However, during the course of an investigation, images may be shown to relevant persons involved in the case, including the defence in a prosecution. Recorded images may be presented as evidence and used in any court proceedings.

Where images required for evidential purposes are recorded onto a portable memory device, the portable memory device and its data may be retained by the Authority for a period of up to seven years after any prosecution, or the acceptance of a Financial Administrative Penalty, caution or written warning. Images downloaded to a secure UK computer network and any printed copies of images will be subject to the same retention period.

Where a contracted drone or UAV operator is to be used for investigatory and potential prosecution purposes, Cornwall IFCA shall, if practicable, provide a portable memory device for use by an operator whose camera system records images onto such a device. Once image recording is completed, the portable memory device will be removed from the camera and securely held by the Authority. Should the provision of a suitable portable memory device not be possible or practicable, a contracted drone or UAV operator will be requested to either:

- Provide their portable memory device to the Authority as soon as practicable after image recording has ceased; or
- Delete any recorded images taken on behalf of the Authority, once they have been provided to the Authority in a permanent format, or if they are informed by the Authority that the images are no longer required.

In all circumstances, where a recorded image of an identifiable person is not required for evidential purposes, it will be deleted within 31 days of the initial recording, unless the person provides the Authority with their permission for it to be saved.

Any person who believes an image of them has been recorded by, or on behalf of, Cornwall IFCA may request a copy by contacting the Cornwall IFCA office. We will then provide the requestor with a Right of Access, Rectification and Erasure Request (RARE) form or, alternatively, you can download it from our website. Please be aware that it may be necessary for the Authority to edit or alter an image recording to protect the personal information of other people, such as blanking out their faces. For more information about how we handle data, please visit our website.