

Written evidence submitted by Mr Steven Butt (RDU0025)

I am a newly trained NQE drone pilot who is in the process of acquiring a PFCO from the CAA, with the intention of undertaking primarily photogrammetry surveys.

- The ethical implications of civilian drones on citizen privacy and safety in the UK;

With the advent of GDPR I had to prove to our GDPR advisor/coordinator at my workplace that I wouldn't breach an individual's privacy, we found at the heights I would be working/taking images at 50 – 100 m taking images straight down for mapping purposes that an individual's identity is hard to determine due to the resolution and the angle of the image taken, also when abiding by the drone code we are to fly 50m away from an individual not under our control.

- The effectiveness of built-in drone safety features, such as tracking and monitoring capabilities, in mitigating the risks of civilian drones;

I pilot a DJI Mavic it has built in Geo Fencing and data logging, I also use altitude angel to report my flights, however at this point in time only other drone pilots see the flight reports, it would be better if helicopters and drones shared data somehow as that's my most likely airprox as they can fly in areas where I can.

- The effectiveness of anti-drone technology in mitigating the risks of civilian drones;

As yet unknown, aero scope only works for DJI, to my knowledge from the news the alleged drone at Gatwick was a custom-built drone. So, one assumes no geo fencing, no flight data logging? The other at Heathrow was reportedly a fixed wing Model Aircraft which the pilot was in a model aircraft society, again no geo fencing, or flight data records.

- The economic opportunities arising from the growth of drone technology;

At this time appears to be expanding the capabilities of a land surveyor due to being able to cover exponentially more ground than if manually. It for me will be treated like part of my survey equipment.

- The success, or otherwise, of regulatory frameworks for civilian drones and what should be covered in the forthcoming 'Drones Bill';

I think the drone code needs to be enforced properly and I think further certifications for exemptions should be more available to commercial drone pilots.

- The plans for registration of civilian drones in the UK;

Again the person flying legally has no worries it's the folks that just buy a drone and fly it without looking up how when and when they are able to fly. No amount of registration is going to stop that.

- The current state of drone safety education and research in the UK; and

It is freely available to anyone willing to look. As mentioned before the issue is individuals with an agenda, or lack of due care & attention.

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