

Flying of Drones - Rules for public use

Rules to ensure the safe use of drones

In the legislation part of this site you can read the (ANO 2009) Air Navigation Order 2009 (CAP393) which sets down what can and can't be done with a drone. Articles 166, 167 and 138 of the Air Navigation Order in particular relate to drones.

Generally speaking you can't:

- Fly them dangerously anywhere
- Drop anything from them
- Fly them out of site of the operator
- Fly them above 400 feet
- Fly them in and around airports
- Fly them within 150 metres of congested** areas or organised gatherings of more than 1000 people.
- Fly within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle, person or structures not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft.
- Take off and land within 30 metres of any person unless they are under the control of the operator.

This legislation is intended, among many other things, to maintain the safe use of drones. The legislation does not give any specific powers of arrest or seizure and officers should continue to use powers under SOCAP and PACE as appropriate.

Anyone breaching the ANO commits a summary offence only.

** A congested area is defined in article 255 of the ANO 2009 as follows;

Congested area in relation to a city, town or settlement, means any area which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes.

Air Navigation Order (ANO)

Articles outlining Air Navigation Order

Air Navigation Order (ANO)

Article 166 and 167 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 states that:

Article 166

- (1) A person must not cause or permit any article or animal (whether or not attached to a parachute) to be dropped from a small unmanned aircraft so as to endanger persons or property.
- (2) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft may only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.
- (3) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft must maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
- (4) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft which has a mass of more than 7kg excluding its fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft at the commencement of its flight, must not fly the aircraft: (a) in Class A, C, D or E airspace unless the permission of the appropriate air traffic control unit has been obtained;
(b) within an aerodrome traffic zone during the notified hours of watch of the air traffic control unit (if any) at that aerodrome unless the permission of any such air traffic control unit has been obtained; or
(c) At a height of more than 400 feet above the surface unless it is flying in airspace described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) and in accordance with the requirements for that airspace.
- (5) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft must not fly the aircraft for the purposes of aerial work except in accordance with a permission granted by the CAA.