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# Public perceptions and acceptance of drones, and the question of regulatory effectiveness

Dr Alan Mckenna

University of Kent





News ▸ Cambridge News ▸ Crime

# Fears burglars are using drones to case homes - as drone reports to police rocket

Families raised fears with the police

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By [Raymond Brown](#)  
15:29, 20 JUN 2018

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## Could Amazon drones turn hostile? Experts warn UAVs may be hijacked by terrorists and hackers

- Amazon to test its delivery drones in Britain, after permission last week
- During the tests the drones will be only allowed to fly an altitude of 400ft
- Experts have warned delivery drones in wrong hands could be dangerous
- Could fly payloads into busy cities or airspace unless regulation improves

By [SARAH GRIFFITHS](#) and [ABIGAIL BEALL FOR MAILONLINE](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 09:09, 1 August 2016 | **UPDATED:** 13:03, 1 August 2016



## Drone reports to UK police soar 352% in a year amid urgent calls for regulation

**Exclusive:** Experts concerned for public safety as flying robotic machines are taken up by criminals

[Peter Yeung](#) | [@ptr\\_yeung](#) | Sunday 7 August 2016 | [132](#) comments



## ATTACK OF THE DRONES: Why does Government back this flying nuisance despite terror fears?

THEY are a flying nuisance posing a serious terror threat, exposing Britons to burglars and are a huge hazard in the sky - but why is our Government continuing to back drones?

By [REBECCA PERRING](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 13:08, Fri, Aug 5, 2016 | **UPDATED:** 13:25, Fri, Aug 5, 2016

# SURVEY OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF DRONE STORIES: AUGUST 2014 – JULY 2016

	MILITARY	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
INDEPENDENT	49 (26.9%)	44 (24.2%)	19 (10.4%)	70 (38.5%)	182
GUARDIAN	145 (43.4%)	66 (19.8%)	18 (5.4%)	105 (31.4%)	334
DAILY MIRROR	67 (17.7%)	113 (29.9%)	55 (14.6%)	143 (37.8%)	378
TOTAL	261 (29.2%)	223 (24.9%)	92 (10.3%)	318 (35.6%)	894

# Drone related calls to Police Forces

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kent	11	53	154	202
Cambridgeshire	11	45	71	147
Merseyside	18	53	206	269
Devon & Cornwall	6	41	110	143
British Transport	6	29	39	67
Total (37 Police forces)			3476	4459

# Latest drone call numbers to the Police

	1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
Kent	27	41
Cambridgeshire	35	19
Merseyside	57	37
Devon & Cornwall	36	24
British Transport	11	16

# Cambridgeshire data

2017 data – 147 calls in total received.

52 concerned drones being flown over private homes or public areas.

21 just listed as drone being flown.

24 were calls from professional users advising police where they were working.

10 concerned drones being found.

2 involved threats to shoot down drones.

5 involved concerns over drones being used to case property.

4 related to drones being flown near children.

4 concerned paintballs being dropped from a drone.



# Airprox. Board investigations into drone near misses with manned aircraft

<b>Year</b>	<b><u>Cat. A</u></b>	<b><u>Cat. B</u></b>	<b><u>Cat. C</u></b>	<b><u>Cat. D</u></b>	<b><u>Cat. E</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
2014	1	1	0	1	0	3
2015	13	11	3	0	0	27
2016	26	25	19	0	1	71
2017	29	27	29	5	3	93
2018(to 9 May)	9 (7)	5(11)	8(7)	0(1)	1(1)	23(27)

# Research on Public Perceptions

## Key Findings:

Concerns over informational privacy; spatial privacy; and frustration in not being able to assess and control a situation.

Height a drone is flown at and size of drones are relevant factors. However, concerns regarding informational privacy do not diminish with size of the drone where it has the capability to record information.

Regulators and drone designers need to consider ways to make it possible for people to understand what a drone is doing, whether it is being flown legitimately, and the person flying can be identified.

Danish Ministry of Transport, University of Southern Denmark, and Aalborg University – ‘General Public’s Privacy Concerns Regarding Drone Use in Residential and Public Areas.’ (May 2017).

- ‘Public reactions to drone use in residential and public areas.’ (December 2017).



Cascade News

Robert Knowles - Fined £800 and £3500 costs - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

# Prosecutions

2014 – Mark Spencer – CAA prosecution. Fined £300 (2 offences). Also ordered to pay contribution of the £250 costs.

October 2015 – Richard Brunner. Fined £900 (3 offences). Costs £235. £90 surcharge.

June 2016 – Paul John Raptis. Convicted for flying and filming in Central London (No details of fine imposed publically available)

September 2016 – Nigel Wilson. £1800 fine. £600 costs. £20 surcharge.

July 2017 – Richard Smith – fined £259, costs £185 plus £30 victim surcharge.

## Non-Prosecution resolution

October 2017 – Essex Police entered into a Community Resolution agreement with a 28 year old man.

# Civil redress

Spatial privacy intrusion - Trespass and Nuisance

Section 76 Civil Aviation Act 1982 prevents a claim being brought where the flight is made in accordance with the Air Navigation Order Rules.



# Les Nicolles prison - Guernsey



Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

The Prisons (Interference with Wireless Telegraphy) Act 2012

The Prisons (Interference with Wireless Telegraphy)(Guernsey) Order 2018.

Thank you!