

# DRONE AWARENESS IN 2018 REPORT SUMMARY



## In the UK, drone usage is rising to an all-time high both commercially and recreationally.

It is one of the region's most exciting industries – with one report<sup>1</sup> noting that the technology has the potential to increase UK GDP by a massive £42bn by 2030. The same research estimates that there will be more than 76,000 industry-focused drones in the UK's sky by 2030; all of which will generate around more than 628,000 jobs across sectors as diverse as agriculture, retail, emergency services, and utilities.

In short, drones are here to stay.

However, with drones set to become a familiar sight in UK airspace, improving the public's trust in the technology is crucial. If a fear of drones and negative perception is allowed to proliferate then this multi-billion-pound opportunity risks being stopped before its even begun.

The UK Government's new drone laws – effective from Monday 30th July 2018 – are a step in helping to reduce these fears. By restricting drones from flying above 400 feet or within one kilometre of airport boundaries, the legislation builds on the UK Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) original [Dronecode](#) guidelines to take a critical step forward in ensuring safer flying.

Looking to better understand the perception of drones within the CAA commissioned its third annual Drone Awareness Study<sup>2</sup>.

The research revealed close alignment between both the wider public and drone users – with all respondents making clear their desire for **increased regulation**, including a **focus on safety** and **more appropriate punishment** for those caught flying irresponsibly.

The demand for responsible drone flying was reflected in an increase in awareness of the CAA's [Dronecode](#), a clear sign that both the public and the drone community is working towards a safer future.

The key findings are explained on the next page.

**Jonathan Nicholson, Assistant Director at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said:**



As recreational drone use becomes increasingly widespread across the UK it is heartening to see that awareness of the Dronecode has also continued to rise – a clear sign that most drone users take their responsibility seriously and are a credit to the community.

Drones are here to stay, not only as a recreational pastime, but as a vital tool in many industries – from agriculture to blue-light services – so increasing public trust through safe drone flying is crucial.

<sup>1</sup>Pwc – The impact of drones on the UK economy (2018): <https://www.pwc.co.uk/dronesreport>

<sup>2</sup>The study questioned 2,000 UK adults and 350 UK drone users

## THE KEY FINDINGS:

### SAFETY TO BE PRIORITISED

Safety was the clear priority among all respondents:

- **93 per cent** of the public and **96 per cent** of drone users called it 'vital' that drone flyers adhere to the rules of the CAA's Dronecode

This led to calls for more appropriate punishments for rule-breakers:

- **44 per cent** of the public and **32 per cent** of drone users called for a large fine for those flying over the 400ft legal limit

- **47 per cent** of the UK public felt that those flying their drone near an airport should be penalised with a large fine. A further **29 per cent** felt breaking this law warranted a prison sentence and **21 per cent** believed it deserved a criminal record

- **30 per cent** of drone users called for those flying UAVs in city centres to receive a large fine, while **19 per cent** felt it was worthy of a lifetime drone-flying ban

### INCREASED AWARENESS

Awareness of the Dronecode has continued to rise among both the UK public and drone users:

- Awareness rose from **54 per cent in 2017** to **71 per cent in 2018** – an impressive increase of 17 per cent

- Dronecode awareness:
  - 2016 – **11 per cent**
  - 2017 – **54 per cent**
  - 2018 – **71 per cent**

### MOBILE APPS ARE THE FUTURE OF DRONE FLIGHT

Mobile applications are quickly becoming integral to responsible drone use, with users citing them as crucial for regulating the sector and improving safety:

- **45 per cent** of drone users use a drone related app; and of those who don't use a drone app, **73 per cent** said they will in the future

- **43 per cent** stated that apps such as NATS Drone Assist and Airmap have the benefit of providing drone users with accurate airspace information

### CONTACT

For further information, please contact the CAA on: 0333 103 6000.

Alternatively, you can email on: [press.office@caa.co.uk](mailto:press.office@caa.co.uk)

Office Hours: 08:30 – 17:30 Monday to Friday

