

Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill received Royal Assent.

The important part of the act is Part 3 which deals with unmanned aircraft. From a letter from the Aviation Minister-

Part 3 of the Act provides new and additional police powers to tackle the unlawful use of unmanned aircraft. The Act contains a stop and search power attached to offences in the Air Navigation Order 2016 and existing prison offences. The Act also provides for the use of counter-unmanned aircraft technology that interferes with property or wireless telegraphy, for the purposes of detecting and preventing certain offences where they are being committed using unmanned aircraft. It adds the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and senior management at prisons to the list of those who can authorise the use of this technology, allowing them to better protect sites such as prisons and nuclear sites.

The relevant parts are either in force now or will be in force within 2 months. They also give the police the power to impose on the spot fines of up to £1000 for things such as failing to register as an operator, failing to mark your operator ID on the aircraft, not having remote pilot competency and not landing when asked to do by a copper. You will get up to 7 days to provide your papers at a police station if necessary, which does not supersede the requirement to have an authorisation with you when flying if required by the CAA and specifically stated on the authorisation.

IMPORTANT

During your visit to the HMFC site, please ensure that you have your membership, insurance and operator registration with you and that all models flown have registration ID number attached to the aircraft.

You can read the full bill here-

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/12/contents/enacted>

