



## Consultation response

### Historic Houses Response to Taking Flight: the future of drones in the UK

Date: September 2018

Description: This was a consultation proposing policies for drone use and enforcement.

#### About us

Historic Houses represents the UK's largest collection of independently owned historic houses, castles and gardens. Our family includes over 1,650 important listed places across the country.

More than 26 million annual visits to these places generate over £1 billion for the economy, and Historic Houses places support over 33,700 full time equivalent jobs. Many Historic Houses places use drones for images and videos for marketing purposes, as well as for filming and as part of a package for events. However, a number of Historic Houses places have concerns about the public use of drones on their property, and how no-fly zones and penalties for drone misuse can be enforced.

#### Section 5

##### **Question 12 – Do you agree with the requirement to use FINS(s) as outlined by the government?**

Historic Houses is in favour of a Flight Notification System(s) (FINS(s)) for drone pilots as outlined in this consultation. Currently there is a lack of information for drone users about the various no-fly zones that exist around aerodromes, government property and private property. If drone pilots are required to register information before a flight, there will be an opportunity to alert them to such information before a flight takes place.

Should a FIN(s) be developed, Historic Houses also believes that the awareness campaign should be aimed at the general public – so that property owners, businesses and drone pilots are all aware of the scheme, and any consequences of not using it properly, or inputting false information.

##### **Question 14 – Should there be a requirement to file a pre-flight notification on the FINS(s) before flying a drone?**

Yes – Historic Houses believes that this requirement is vital in order to make sure that pilots are made aware of any flight restrictions before the flight takes place.

##### **Question 18 – Should there be a duty on FINS providers to display accurate information?**

Yes – Historic Houses believes that it is vital that any FINS(s) service displays accurate information so that drone pilots have access to the correct, up to date information about any restrictions before they fly.

**Question 21 – In your opinion what should the FINS(s) cover?**

- **All of the UK**
- **Select regional information, but together multiple FINSs would provide full UK coverage**
- **Other**
- **Why?**

Whichever option is chosen, pilots should be able to easily access information for whatever part of the UK they are in.

**Section 6**

**Police powers and fixed penalty notices**

Historic Houses does not have a view on this section, except to say that any decision made about extending police powers in relation to the misuse of drones, production of evidence, instructing remote drone users to land, police access to electronically stored information from a drone, and any of the other policy suggestions in the chapter, should be communicated via a highly visible information campaign aimed at the general public. As mentioned previously, this should then ensure that not only professional drone pilots but also leisure pilots, property owners and business managers are aware of the legal requirements for drone flights and are clear about the consequences for drone misuse or illegal flight.

**POLLY MARTIN**

Policy Officer

Historic Houses

**T** 020 7259 5688

**W** [historichouses.org](http://historichouses.org)

**EMMA ROBINSON**

Director of Policy & Campaigns

Historic Houses

**T** 020 7259 5688

**W** [historichouses.org](http://historichouses.org)