

1) Does West Midlands Police

a) own unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones? if so, how many, and what type/make?

The Force Support Unit has 8 x Operational Aircraft; 2 x DJI Matrice; 6 x DJI Mavics

b) sub-contract UAV services from an outside body, company, or other police force for police operations? If so, which body/company/forces and what type/make are used?

No

2) How many times have West Midlands Police used drones for police operations since Jan 2020 (please can you provide monthly figures)? If answering this question would exceed costs limits, a monthly estimate would be sufficient, but please confirm figures are estimated. Can you describe the type of operations in which drones have been used (i.e. public order, missing person search, etc.)?

Flight Reason	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	(blank)	Grand Total
(blank)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Aerial Photography	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Annual Assessment	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Area Search	10	3	12	10	7	11	-	53
Arrest Attempt	5	4	3	14	2	3	-	31
Assist Council	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Burglary	1	2	1	10	3	2	-	19
Canal Search	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Concern for Safety	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Covid Breach	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Crime	9	-	-	-	-	2	1	12
Crime Scene	5	3	2	-	1	3	-	14
Crime Scene Survey	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Decamp	4	2	1	1	2	7	-	17
Demonstration	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Event	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Fatal RTC	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Football Fixture	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	16
Misper Search	28	10	13	17	35	41	-	144
Off Road Bikes	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3

Offender Search	12	4	9	38	23	17	-	103
Operation	7	4	7	-	10	22	-	50
Person Search	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Photography	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Property Search	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Protest	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Public Event Planning	3	-	-	-	1	4	-	8
Public Order	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Pursuit	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Recce	1	-	1	1	6	2	-	11
Restricted	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Scene Photography	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Site Check	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Site Pictures	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Stolen Bike Search	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Suspect Search	5	3	2	10	2	8	-	30
Tasking	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	5
Test Flight	2	-	3	-	2	-	-	7
Thermal Flyover	35	18	40	15	30	46	1	185
Traffic	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Traffic Pursuit	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Training	24	34	-	9	16	-	-	83
Victim Search	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Warrant	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	5
Warrant Recce	-	-	-	1	3	8	-	12
Grand Total	165	102	106	136	152	202	4	867

NB Data above for overt drone flights is up until 30th June 2020. In addition, some flight entries may be blank due to this data being manually recorded and therefore subject to recording errors

3) Did West Midlands Police utilize the changes brought in by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) between 8 April 2020 and 6 May 2020 to allow greater flexibility in the use of UAVs by the police in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak, and if so on how many occasions?

No

4) Have any complaints been lodged with West Midlands Police about their use of UAVs in the last 6 months?

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