

The use of an UAS by West Midlands Police will be in both a direct and indirect life-saving capacity to meet the needs of our communities or support incident commanders across a variety of situations. UAS possess the ability to enhance situational awareness, identify and assess scenes and locations remotely therefore improving police officer safety, whilst reducing risks to the public and other emergency responders. This will enhance the Force's ability to deliver its duty of care to the public and safety of blue light responders, through timely management of incidents, and more efficient use of resources.

Types of UAS Operations are broken into two main categories:

- Pre-Planned Incidents / Operations
- Spontaneous Incidents / Operations

There are three further sub categories that can be added to both categories as required:

- Day Operations Type
- Night Operations
- Lifesaving Emergency Services Exemption (ESE)

Emergency Incident Response(s):

Emergency Incidents identified for potential UAS deployment include (not limited to):

- Mass Casualty incidents
- CBRN incidents/Hazardous Materials incidents
- Working at height
- Water rescue and large-scale flooding
- Missing Person Searches
- Difficult access / remote location
- Search and Rescue
- Public Safety Events
- Protest/Large Public Gatherings/Sporting Events
- Crime in Progress Incidents
- Overt Intelligence Gathering
- Road Traffic Collisions
- Terrorist incidents

- Large multi-agency incidents (JESIP Model)
- Training
- Crime Scene Imagery
- Reconnaissance

#### Non-Emergency Response:

In addition to operational incidents, emergency services also train on a regular basis to enhance incident resolution. UAS would also be exercised to ensure interoperability, currency of pilots and observers, and to identify operational challenges in the training environment thereby improving safety at operational UAS deployments.

#### Other Uses:

West Midlands Police will be able to utilise the UAS capability within their organisation to benefit other departments, for example public awareness, estates provision and Training, where UAS can deliver a unique benefit to the Police Force delivery. Examples of this are:

- Media team assignments
- Force Estates surveying
- Training Videos for Operational Learning

Authority to deploy drones sits with the FCC for spontaneous incidents; pilots are encouraged to pro – actively deploy to incidents where the use of a drone could be advantageous in preserving life or preventing/detecting crime. Pre-planned use of drones are authorised through the weekly Operations Support and Co-ordination Meeting. Chaired by a Chief Inspector the meeting ensures that drones are deployed proportionately and in line with Force priorities.

Drone deployments will be intelligence led and proportionate for the evidence sought (ie; spending several hours searching an open area for a small amount of drugs dropped by a suspect might be considered disproportionate).

Deployments must be a proportionate response to Threat, Harm, Risk (ie; using drones in an urban area to combat a single vehicle theft reported in the previous month would not be proportionate).

Spontaneous deployments will always include a dynamic risk assessment and where possible a pre-planned risk assessment will be completed considering such points as weather conditions, hazards on the ground and in the and so on.

It is imperative that as per the training, personal safety remains the paramount concern regarding any decisions made in relation to any drone deployment.