Request Reference: 1671A/23

1a. Do you use UAV's at crime scenes? If so what type of scenes, Arson, missing persons, etc.

We have a 24/7 drone team that deploy to a variety of crime scenes, incidents, and events. This includes, but is not limited to: Crimes in progress, Missing person searches, Pre-planned sporting events, Protest/Disorder, Thermal task, Warrants/Arrest attempts, Training, and Public/Community events

1b. And how many times have they been used in the last two years?

Year	Flight	Hours
2021	3,249	783
2022	5,143	1,177

2. Do you use your own UAV's or subcontract UAV services from an outside body/Police force? If so which company/body do you use and what type of UAV?

All aircraft are owned by West Midlands Police, we do not sub-contract any services.

3. Have you ever used UAV's to help search for clandestine graves or missing persons?

Yes

4a. How many staff do you have trained to deploy a UAV?

We currently have 32 trained drone pilots.

4b. What has been the cost of staff training?

The average cost of GVC training course is £500

5. Are your UAV operators police officers or staff?

Police Officers

6. If the answer is yes to any of the above what has been the approx. cost internally and externally?

We do not hold, and therefore it is not possible to provide, costings specifically to the information above. However, a cost analysis was produced in 2022 and is available on the website of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner at the following link:

https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-07-06-EC-Agenda-Item-3.1-WMP-Drone-Unit-Benefit-Cost-Analysis.pdf?x88373

Further information regarding our drone team can be found on our website at the following link: https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/frequently-asked-questions/police-drones or on X by searching @dronesWMP.