

FOI 2022-651

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th August 2022 concerning Use of Drone Technology.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

You wrote:

1. How is drone technology being used within this police force?
2. How many drones does this police force have?

Response:

Please see below information held by Wiltshire Police regarding drones that we use in an overt capacity within the Force.

1. We use Drones in much the same way as we use Police Helicopters. It's a capability to search Urban and Rural areas in a much quicker way than ground units. Ideal for searching for High risk missing people, outstanding suspects, victims, or injured parties.

We also use drones for tracing and recreating scenes, i.e., Murder, fatal RTC's for criminal court and coroners court for a much better understanding of circumstances leading up to events.

We assist the Fire service by utilising the thermal capability which highlights areas of heat sources on building and open land fires, making it much easier and more efficient in tackling the fire. When commanding a large event or incidents, the drone overview gives the Police Commanders a much better overview of numbers and volatile areas, i.e. football matches, Summer/winter solstice, Womad etc.

2. We have 18 drones.