



## Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 119

### Drones

#### Query and response:

1. Do you have a drone?

**Yes, a DJI Inspire 1 and DJI Mavic Pro**

2. If not, are you in the process of obtaining one?

**Not applicable**

3. Is your drone a shared resource with other emergency services?

**The drones are used solely by trained Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue employees. We do operate under Wiltshire Police's Permission for Commercial Operation (PfCO) and Operations Manual, as such we operate a reciprocal arrangement to provide operational cover within agreed parameters.**

4. What was the capital cost of your drone?

**£4,494.99 for both airframes**

5. What is the anticipated annual revenue cost of maintaining your drone for operational purposes?

**Approximately £600. This is based on maintenance and servicing, pilot re-accreditation and any replacement 'consumable' i.e. propellers.**

6. What are the crewing/operating arrangements for ensuring the drone is available for emergency incidents?

**We have two trained drone pilots. This number may be increased in the future depending on the results of the current trial. A partnership is in place with Wiltshire Police to respond to certain incident types on behalf of each service if pilots are unavailable and work is currently being undertaken to assess the benefits and possibilities of a regional collaboration.**

7. Do you have a policy on the operational use of the drone? If so, could I please have a copy.

**Our drone usage is currently under a pilot scheme for one year and a policy is in the process of being developed. Please see attached the draft policy.**

8. What evaluation process did you adopt before purchasing the drone?



**Due to the cost of the airframes we did not need to conduct a formalised procurement process. We did however look at what was being used by partners and purchased airframes that matched their Operations Manuals.**

9. What is the anticipated operational usage for the drone by incident type?

**As this is a pilot scheme with limited data we are unable to answer this question accurately, proposed incident types are public and firefighter safety related only (including any potential police deployments). Examples of this are High Risk missing persons, large fire, chemical incidents, persons ejected/missing following road traffic collisions, media events, training events/exercises etc.**

10. Please supply statistics of the operational use of the drone since purchased as follows, number of mobilisations, incident type, time in use.

**Drones have been available to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service since 23 April 2018. Since then they have deployed nine times; six were 'High risk missing person' searches, two were large fires and one was RTC persons ejected/missing. There have also been approximately six requests with the unit deployment cancelled prior to arrival. The average time deployed at each incident has been approximately 10 to 120 minutes, dependant on size of incident and requirement.**