| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2756Responded to: 02 November 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Police Scotland about the use and deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

## Please may you provide me with answers to the following:

## Do you use UAV’s at crime scenes? If so what type of scenes, Arson, missing persons, etc. and how many times have they been used in the last two years?

Yes. The drones are used at a variety of crime scenes including murder, serious assault and serious sexual crime.  The drones have also been used at the scenes of serious and fatal fires.  The drones have been deployed to crime scenes on twenty occasions in 2022 and nine occasions in 2023.

Further information about Police Scotland’s Air Support Unit is available on our website:

[Air Support Unit and Drones - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/air-support-unit/)

## 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?

We use our own Police Scotland Drones.

## Have you ever used UAV’s to help search for clandestine graves or missing persons?

## The drones are used regularly to assist with searches for missing people and have also been used to search for clandestine grave sites.

## How many staff do you have trained to deploy a UAV? What has been the cost of staff training?

## We currently have 4 Operators trained at this time. There have been no costs incurred in training these officers.

## Are your UAV operators police officers or staff?

## All our operators are experienced Police Officers.

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

There is no cost. All training is internal and there are no external costs.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.