Freedom of Information request reference number: FOIA4193.1

Date of response: 13 February 2019

Request and Response:

Thank you for your request, dated 17 January 2019 regarding the use of Drones in the London Fire Brigade (LFB). I have addressed your points in turn below:

1. Does your fire service have an operational drone? If not, are you in the process of obtaining one?

Yes. We are currently undergoing a trial phase.

2. Is this drone a shared resource with other emergency services, such as the police?

No. It is solely under the LFB's control and not shared.

3. What was the capital cost of your drone?

We are currently leasing our drone with a monthly lease plan.

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

We do not hold this information. Any annual costing will be determined at the end of the trial dependent on final delivery model.

5.What drone crewing arrangements are currently in place for ensuring the drone is available for emergency incidents?

We are running a 24/7 crewing rota within a dedicated drone team. Two pilots do one week in a four week cycle.

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

We do not hold this information. Due to the drone being in a trail period no policy regarding the use of drones has been written yet.

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

A period of 9 months research and evaluation was undertaken to finalise the drone model, crewing rota, deployment method and incident types before the trial commenced.

8.What is the most common use for drones within your fire service, e.g. surveying, RTC incidents etc.

Our most common use with the drone is for increased situational awareness at fires to aid in tactical decisions making

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

We have a record of 20 incidents where the drone has been operationally deployed (flown). The details of which have been set out in the table below.

timeofcall	Classification	IncGeo_BoroughName
16/01/2019 07:42	Fire	Southwark
03/01/2019 14:07	Fire	Barnet
31/12/2018 19:48	Fire	Croydon
18/12/2018 17:14	Fire	Brent
17/12/2018 11:56	Fire	Greenwich
06/12/2018 19:19	Fire	Lewisham
01/12/2018 04:21	Fire	Barking And Dagenham
27/11/2018 05:02	Fire	Waltham Forest
23/11/2018 11:06	Fire	Bexley
19/11/2018 03:57	Fire	Brent
07/11/2018 00:00	Fire	Barnet
30/10/2018 20:48	Fire	Westminster
24/10/2018 11:31	Fire	Bromley
21/10/2018 00:57	Fire	Harrow
14/10/2018 14:37	Fire	Camden
09/10/2018 16:07	Fire	Hillingdon
06/10/2018 00:22	Fire	Ealing
29/09/2018 23:55	Fire	Croydon
26/09/2018 16:35	Fire	Lewisham
25/09/2018 12:03	Fire	Islington

I hope you find this response of use. Should you have any further questions do let me know.