

**Dated: 27/12/2024**

**POLICY TITLE:** Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) (Drones)

**OWNING DIRECTORATE:** Force Coordination

**AUTHOR:** Chief Inspector Force Coordination

**CONTACT DETAILS:** I01

**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT:** Complete

**AUTHORISED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (APP) NATIONAL GUIDANCE:** No

---

**AIM OF POLICY:** This policy outlines the operational circumstances in which Northumbria Police will utilise Unmanned Aerial Vehicles also known as Drones and the relevant legislation and guidance that governs their use.

**BENEFIT OF POLICY:** This policy will ensure:

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are deployed in appropriate circumstances and in line with legislation,
- The benefits of using UAVs are maximised.

**REASON FOR POLICY:** To outline the Force's position in relation to the use of UAVs in support of its overall aims and objectives.

---

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have been used throughout the UK's Police Forces since 2016 in support of National Police Air Service (NPAS). Northumbria Police has Authority from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to enable the deployment of UAVs within the Force area under certain circumstances and within the boundaries of the authorisation issued by the CAA.

Northumbria Police will use UAV technology to support NPAS to complete open area searches for missing, vulnerable and wanted people, they have the ability to capture/record evidence of crimes in progress as well as provide live stream footage of public order incidents and firearms deployments. Live stream footage will be viewed in force control rooms to aid operational commanders' decision making and tactical options.

Northumbria Police will ensure:

- UAVs are only used by officers who are trained.
- Data is managed appropriately, in accordance with legislation, force requirements and associated legislation including: Human Rights legislation, Police and Criminal Evidence

Act 1984, Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and Criminal Procedure and Investigation Act 1996.

- Collateral intrusion is managed appropriately, and material retained only for a legitimate policing purpose.
- All deployments will be governed by the most current legislation regarding the Emergency Services use of UAVs issued by the CAA, this will include Emergency Services exemptions in certain circumstances.

---

**SOURCE DOCUMENT:** Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, National Surveillance Camera Strategy for England and Wales.

**GROUPS AFFECTED:** All officers and staff

**ACCESS AND DISCLOSURE RESTRICTIONS:** None

---