



REQUEST	RESPONSE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<p>1. How many unmanned aerial vehicles do Merseyside Police currently have in operation?</p>	<p>Merseyside Police do not currently have any unmanned aerial vehicles in operation.</p>	
<p>2. How much has it cost Merseyside Police to operate, maintain, repair and train staff to use since UAVs have been in operation?</p>	<p>When Merseyside Police did operate an UAV, the budget allocation was £25,000 for 2009/ 2010. This expenditure included the purchase of the insurance, licensing and training.</p> <p>The initial outlay was in the region of £35,000 though a large part of this was spent on the control van and base station equipment.</p>	
<p>3. How many criminals have been caught by the UAV(s)?</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>4. How many helicopter units do Merseyside Police have access to?</p>	<p>4 Helicopters</p>	<p>From 18/07/2011, 4 helicopters have provided air support as part of the North West Air Operations Group. This group consists of the following 5 North West Forces: Merseyside, GMP, Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.</p>

<p>5. Between 01/01/2011 and 31/12/2011, how much has it cost to operate, maintain, repair and train staff to operate the helicopter(s)?</p>	<p>The costs attributed for the period 1/1/2011 to 18/07/2011 for air support amount to £997,296</p>	<p>The annual budget for the four units is £7.2 million. The new arrangement is part of a cost-cutting drive which will allow for savings of around 11%.</p> <p>The benefits of the new service include the facility to have the closest helicopter deployed quickly to any incident. If there are two incidents in the same force area, then two helicopters can be deployed as necessary.</p>
<p>6. Assuming there have been successful operations for the UAV(s), what was the average response time?</p>	<p>Response time was 30-40 minutes depending on distance.</p>	