

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2025/01395

Date of request: 11 December 2025

Request:

I am looking to request statistics regarding the use of UAS (Drones) in terms of Missing People Searches / Person in the water Searches.

My requested statistics for years 2024 and 2025 are as follows:

- *How many incidents was your UAS's deployed to for Missing People?*
- *How many flight hours has your UAS been deployed for missing people?*
- *How many of these searches were successful (as a percentage)?*
- *Any specific data (number of incidents / flight hours) regarding searches for Persons believed to have entered the water. This can include body recoveries.*
- *What UAS equipment do you utilise?*

Response:

Please see our response to each of your requests in turn below:

- *How many incidents was your UAS's deployed to for Missing People?*

Year	Assist Metropolitan Police Service in the search for medium or high-risk vulnerable people in large or open spaces
2024	26
2025	24
Total	50

- *How many flight hours has your UAS been deployed for missing people?*
- *How many of these searches were successful (as a percentage)?*

This information is not routinely recorded on our Incident Management System (IMS). However, our Operational Resilience department have estimated that the average flying time for missing person incidents is around 49 minutes. Therefore, they have estimated that the mean average flying time for the total missing person incidents for each year are approximately:

Year	Mean Average Flying Time
2024	21 hours
2025	19 hours

- *Any specific data (number of incidents / flight hours) regarding searches for Persons believed to have entered the water. This can include body recoveries.*

The table below shows the number of waterborne incidents that LFB drones were deployed:

Year	Waterborne incidents attended
2024	235
2025	273
Total	508

- *What UAS equipment do you utilise?*

This information is published on the LFB website and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/services-and-facilities/vehicles-and-equipment/drones/>