

A Post Details

Job Title: BVLOS Drone Pilot (Police Staff)	Grade: Police Staff
Department A-Division	Division A <i>Select Division</i>
Reports to: DFOR Supervisor	Contract Type: 23 month FTC with opportunity for extension based on further funding
Level of Vetting: RV (TBC)	Numbers in Post:4

B Purpose of the Post

British Transport police are developing drone capabilities to support railway policing , using “Drone in a Box” (DIAB) technology to rapidly deploy drones from remote locations to incident hotspots. Operated Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) from a central control room, these drones provide real time intelligence, improve situational awareness, and help direct officers safely and efficiently while reducing disruption and the need to go lineside.

As a BVLOS Drone Pilot for BTP, you will be responsible for the safe flight and management of BTP’s remotely operated drones. Working towards the Drone Development Programme strategy. The job holder will undertake a structured programme of initial and ongoing training to develop and maintain the knowledge, skills and accreditation required to operate BTP’s BVLOS drone systems safely and effectively. Once trained, the BVLOS Drone Pilot will be flying drones daily to save lives, reduce disruption and respond to incidents on the railway.

C Dimensions of the Post

Financial Responsibilities

None

Staff management responsibilities

None

Staff management responsibilities – Non direct

Provide operational oversight and intervene where necessary to mitigate risks arising from unsafe drone operations, escalating safety concerns in accordance with defined procedures.

D Principal Accountabilities

- Deliver safe and effective BVLOS drone operations for patrol and incident response, ensuring compliance with all regulatory, organisational and operational procedures.
- Operate BVLOS DIAB drones in line with the Drone Development Programme strategy, contributing to the achievement of policing objectives and improved response capability across the rail network.
- Provide real-time intelligence in support of live incidents, collaborating with operational colleagues and external partners to support decision-making, incident resolution and the safe management of the railway network.
- Maintain full accountability for the safe control and operation of the drone in flight, including adherence to flight procedures, risk assessments and real-time operational decision-making.
- Maintain required BVLOS qualifications, operational accreditation and competency standards, undertaking mandatory training and assessment to ensure continued operational authorisation.

- Support safety and occurrence investigations, providing operational insight to identify root causes, capture learning and strengthen future risk mitigation.
- Contribute to the development and continuous improvement of BVLOS capabilities, including policies, procedures and operational products to support effective deployment at scale.
- Undertake structured testing and trial activity, actively supporting innovation and the introduction of new drone capabilities within an evolving operational environment.

E Decision Making

Significant say in decisions

- Determining the safe deployment, continuation, diversion or termination of BVLOS drone operations in response to live incidents.
- Assessing operational risk, environmental conditions, system status and regulatory requirements when determining flight feasibility and operational response.
- Prioritising competing incidents and operational demands within established governance, safety and operational frameworks.
- Making real-time operational decisions within delegated authority to ensure the safe and effective delivery of BVLOS drone operations.

F Contact with Others

Internal

- Drone Flight Operations Room colleagues and other BVLOS DIAB Pilots
- Programme team, in particular Drone Development Lead (Police Sergeant and Operational Lead)
- Force Control Room and Visual Services
- BTP Drone Safety Team
- BTP Embedded Disruption Officers, Unit OICs, BVLOS Remote Pilots, all other officers and staff
- Benefit analysts

External

- Network Rail and industry partners (TOC, FOC and other rail industry)
- External SME's supporting BTP such as drone industry suppliers and advisors

G Essential Criteria

Qualifications and Training

- Level 3 qualification (A-Level, NVQ Level 3, BTEC National Diploma or equivalent) or demonstrable equivalent experience.
- Ability and willingness to successfully complete specialist BVLOS drone training, accreditation and ongoing competency assessments.

Experience

- Experience of working within safety-critical, regulated or compliance-driven operational environments, applying defined procedures, governance requirements and risk controls.
- Experience of operating/working in safety-critical, high-risk or demanding operational environments, with evidence of sound judgement, adherence to procedures and the ability to remain focused under pressure.
- Experience of interpreting risk assessments and making decisions in real time, within defined policy and governance frameworks.
- Exposure to testing, trial or development environments, contributing to the introduction or refinement of new systems, technology or ways of working.
- Experience of contributing to continuous improvement activity, such as supporting reviews, identifying learning from incidents, or contributing to the development of procedures or guidance.

Skills

- Ability to assess live situations, interpret risk and make timely, proportionate decisions within defined procedures and regulatory frameworks.
- Ability to operate and manage complex drone systems and associated software, applying technical knowledge to ensure safe and effective deployment.
- Strong capability to apply risk assessment processes, follow checklists and operate consistently within safety-critical and compliance-driven environments.
- High level of accuracy and discipline in following defined procedures, ensuring safe operation and minimising operational risk.
- Ability to maintain focus over extended periods in a fast-paced operational environment, including during high-pressure or time-critical incidents.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with operational colleagues and stakeholders to support coordinated responses and decision-making.
- Ability to identify, analyse and respond to technical or operational issues, contributing to safe resolution and continuous improvement.
- Ability to quickly acquire new skills, adapt to evolving technology and ways of working, and operate effectively in a developing operational programme.

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of aviation, drone or other regulated operational frameworks and the application of associated compliance requirements.
- Knowledge of safety management principles, including risk assessment, incident reporting and application of human factors in a safety-critical environment.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft 365 applications (including Teams, Outlook, Word and Excel) to support communication, coordination and record-keeping.

Desirable criteria:

- Relevant technical or vocational qualification, aligned to aviation, engineering, technology or a related field
- Recognised drone pilot qualification (e.g. GVC or equivalent), with evidence of meeting regulatory requirements for commercial drone operations.
- Knowledge of BVLOS drone operations and associated systems, including flight planning, remote operation and monitoring technologies.

- Knowledge of policing, command and control environments and operational decision-making frameworks.
- Knowledge of transport, rail or other safety-critical operational environments.
- Knowledge of drone and aviation regulatory, safety and risk management methodologies, including SORA, Human Factors, CRM and Just Culture principles.
- Experience of using operational communication, radio and dispatch systems.

H Additional Information

Flying a BVLOS drone, many miles away from your physical location for long periods of time under operational stress responding to police incidents, requires significant concentration and the ability to remain calm and focused if things go wrong. This role will include an assessment of your ability to concentrate, make decisions under pressure and your ability to use a computer effectively to fly a BVLOS DIAB drone.

This role will be based in central London, on site in the DFOR at BTP Ebury Bridge. The role will require successful Police vetting before appointment. The role is 100% office based. Travel around BTP jurisdiction is unlikely but possible occasionally for familiarisation visits or CPD.

This recruitment will involve:

- A self declaration health assessment for suitability to conduct drone flying
- An instructed flight experience session to assess dexterity and suitability for safe use of the drone flight system. You may be asked to complete further health, skills or suitability assessments as decided by the BTP Occupational Health and recruitment team

To find out more about the role contact Programme Operational Lead William.Russell@btp.police.uk

For Panel to complete only:

Panel Approval: Pauline Okirie

Date:09/07/2026

Organisation Chart
Drone Flight Operations Room Staff

