

1. Please can you provide information on the different specialist skills that members of the OSU (Operational Support Unit) would hold.

The OSU (Operational Support Unit) is a department that sits within our wider Operations command portfolio. This is a department which contains many specialist skills & capabilities as opposed to being made of individual specialist units.

Within the OSU we have the following capabilities - Specialist search including heights and shallow water, method of entry, and public order.

Some officers within the department hold further specialist skills including CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) response and search, body recovery, drone pilots, operational football officer, police liaison officer and protest removal team.

Also see our website:

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/about-us/about-us/operational-support-unit/>

2. Please can you also provide information on the level of CBRN training that members of the force would hold.

Clarification:

By 'the level of CBRN training', I mean what they are trained in is the types of CBRN training rather they have basic training or if the force have officers who can deal with anything that can come under CBRN similar to how the Met TSG (Territorial Support Group) have it.

This information is exempt by virtue of s24(1) (National security) and s31(1) (Law enforcement). See covering letter for full details.

3. Please can you also provide information on the use of dogs in firearms incidents.

Clarification:

By provide information on the use of dogs in firearms incidents I mean what type of capacity are they used in or if they are used in at all for example are they used as in a firearms support dog capacity.

Firearms dogs are deployed on firearms incidents across the West Midlands Police force area. They are German Shepherds / Malinois / and German Shepherds/Malinois crosses.

They are deployed as a less lethal option as detailed within the police dogs APP (Authorised Professional Practice) on the college of policing website at the following link:

[Police dogs | College of Policing](#)