HOW POLICE DRONES TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED AT A PROTEST AND HOW YOU CAN TRY TO MAINTAIN YOUR ANONYMITY

What are police drones?

- Drones are remotely controlled Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) of varying sizes.
- They usually come equipped with cameras and might be enabled with Facial Recognition Technology.
- Drones can be equipped with speakers, surveillance equipment, radar and communications interception tools, such as 'IMSI catchers'.

How might drones be used during protests?

- Camera-enabled drones may be used to remotely monitor and track people's movements in public spaces, including at protests, without them consenting or even knowing.
- Similarly, when equipped with communication interception technologies, drones can be used to monitor and track protestors' calls and messages, in and around the area where a protest is taking place.
- Drones equipped with speakers may also be used to communicate with protesters, for example by giving them orders, instructions or warnings.[1]

What to think about when going to a protest

- Drones use and impact on with your anonymity depends on the technologies they are equipped with.
- See our 'Free to Protest' guides about Facial Recognition Technology and IMSI catchers, as these are common tools that a drone could use to monitor the activities of protestors.





[1] We don't know for sure what kinds of capabilities the drones used by British police forces are equipped with.