

**Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue  
Service  
Operational Logistics Centre  
Betony Road  
Malvern  
WR14 1GB**

## **Replacement of officer response cars**

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### **REPORT OF: Transport Manager**

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#### **Purpose of the report**

To confirm the reasons for purchasing and selecting Volvo XC60 4x4 cars to replace the Land Rover response cars.

#### **Background**

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, "HWFRS", has operated a fleet of Land Rover response cars since 2010, these have been in the main Freelanders and as of late a batch of Discoveries.

In 2017 the response car fleet was reviewed and it was found that a number of the cars were over the four year replacement age and a large number would be at the replacement age the following year, most of which were leased, only a small number of Discoveries would be within the required age group with some of those nearing that age.

It was decided to replace all 30 of the operational response cars in one batch and an Operational Fire officer was designated the task of finding a suitable replacement, which turned out to be the Volvo XC60 4x4.

The selection was based on a list of necessary operational criteria that the cars would need to provide, whilst also taking into consideration other criteria such as emissions, fuel consumption, purchase cost, Warranty period etc.

In total the service was operating 36 Land Rover response cars and at a later date in 2018 it was decided to replace all of them with the Volvo cars, this has many benefits as shown below, but was also led by reliability issues that had been causing the response drivers problems with the Discoveries.

#### **Benefits to the service**

Comparisons made by the operational officer carrying out the replacement project found that the Volvo XC60 4x4 car met all necessary criteria and gave best value overall against other suitable cars.

The reliability record of Volvo cars is well noted in the motor trade as opposed to the temperamental and reliability issue's being hit with our Discoveries.

The Volvo cars are renowned for driver, passenger and pedestrian safety and whereas the Land Rovers are fairly safe, "no listed NCAP rating", the Volvo XC60 is the only car on the market at this time that has a 100% NCAP rating from Mira.

The Volvo cars have emissions at 367 grams/ mile, whereas the Discoveries are 401 grams/mile and the Freelanders 450 grams/mile so these cars are better for the environment.

Published equivalent miles per gallon figures show the Volvo at 24mpg, Discoveries at 22mpg and Freelanders at 20mpg, so they should show a saving on fuel usage.

Since purchasing the first batch of Volvo's we have found that they are very reliable, driver friendly, responsive and dealer support is excellent all of which caused concerns with most of the Land Rover vehicles.

Overall the Volvo cars are proving to be a good quality car and more reliable than the Land Rovers, dealer support and service level agreements are looking to be good so far.

Report Author;  
Transport Manager

Date; 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019