



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F 2011 01135

Keyword: Crime

Subject: ANPR

Request and Answer:

Question 1

What steps have been taken by the PSNI to inform the public that their data is being taken and stored on the ANPR database for several years.

Question 2

Since installation how many errors have been made using ANPR cameras due to:

- 1 mistaken identity.
- 2 false matching.
- 3 inaccurate data.
- 4 out of date data.

Question 3

I would like to know, what safeguards do you have in place to stop "function creep" arising with the ANPR system (i.e. the system being used for purposes that have not been subject to scrutiny or oversight.)

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you.

Answer 1

Nationally there have been regular press releases by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and details are also on the NPIA Internet site. There have been a number of articles prepared for various publications such as Police Review etc and various police forces have fully co-operated with the making of TV programmes featuring the police use of ANPR. ACPO and NPIA are very keen to ensure the public are as aware as they can be of the police use of ANPR.

PSNI Policy Directive PD 01/08 has been in the public domain from 2008, to view, please click on the link below

http://www.psni.police.uk/policy_directive_0108_psni_anpr_systems.pdf

The PSNI website is in the process of being updated to include other relevant information with regard to the use of ANPR by PSNI.

Answer 2

Information specific to Question 2, (1 – 4) is currently not recorded or quantified in any way. However, please see the Section 16 Advice and Assistance section below for information that may be of interest to you.

Answer 3

The original registration of the 'purpose' is important. The purpose is defined in the PSNI PD 01/08, as mentioned above. The nationally agreed data handling and retention arrangements with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) details how long data can be retained for, who can access this data and what authority levels are required for access to capture data. Basically, the longer the data is held the greater the seriousness for the reason for access and greater the level of authority (in writing) is required.

All PSNI Data including ANPR data is stored in accordance with Data Protection Principles and all access to the data is fully audited and recorded with the necessary authority levels. PSNI use of the system and processes have been reviewed by various governing bodies - i.e. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC).

Section 16 Advice and Assistance

Question 2

All data is retained in line with the Principles of the Data Protection Act. Any database used must be accurate. Should a database be found to be inaccurate, appropriate action will be taken to mitigate the inconvenience caused to those stopped as a consequence. Work is ongoing to ensure that data is both as accurate and current as possible. When the ANPR system is to be used to trigger other activities, i.e. officers to stop the vehicle, a check of the data is completed by the operator to confirm the reading from a visual image of the Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) prior to any such action being taken.

The National ACPO ANPR Standards (NAAS) determine the minimum performance levels that police ANPR cameras should operate at, these are as follows:

For static ANPR cameras the current minimum acceptable capture rate is 98%, correct read rate 95% and the overall capture and correct read rate is 93.1%. For mobile ANPR cameras (Stationary) the current minimum acceptable capture rate is 98%, correct read rate 95% and the overall capture and correct read rate is 93.1%. For mobile ANPR cameras (Moving) the current minimum acceptable capture rate is 80%, correct read rate 85% and the overall capture and correct read rate is 68% PSNI view these minimum performance levels as exactly that and strive to ensure that camera setup delivers better performance so as to minimise the potential for misreads and any inconvenience to the public. Every effort is taken to ensure that all errors are kept to a minimum.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they

investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.