



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01186

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Facial Recognition

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request 1

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about any contracts with automated facial recognition manufacturers.

Specifically, I am asking the following:

Does your police force hold any current contracts with Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, or Verint or has it previously ever purchased any of their products?

If yes, please provide details of:

- a) How much money your force has spent on these contracts and/or products
- b) What products or services were sought in those contracts or purchases
- c) The contract lengths
- d) When your force purchased the company's technologies or services
- e) The purpose your force purchased the company's technologies or services for

Answer

The PSNI do not hold any current contracts with Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, or Verint or has it previously ever purchased any of their products.

Request 2

Does your force hold contracts with any other automated facial recognition manufacturers or has it purchased automated facial recognition technology?

If yes, please provide details of:

- a) How much money your force has spent on these contracts and/or products
- b) What products or services were sought in those contracts or purchases
- c) The contract lengths
- d) When your force purchased the company's technologies or services
- e) The purpose your force purchased the company's technologies or services for

Answer

The PSNI do not hold contracts with any other automated facial recognition manufacturers nor have the PSNI purchased automated facial recognition technology.

Request 3

Please provide details of any correspondence or meetings your force has had with Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, Verint or any other automated facial recognition vendor.

Answer

Enquiries made have failed to locate any records or documents relevant to the above request based on the information you have provided. PSNI does not have Facial Recognition (FR) technology at this time.

Request 4

Has your force trialled any products from Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, Verint or any other automated facial recognition vendors? If so, please provide detail.

Answer

The PSNI has not trialled any products from Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, Verint or any other automated facial recognition vendors.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 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.psni.police.uk

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