



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-03435

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 the use of facial recognition technology by your police force. Specifically, I am asking the following:

Is your force currently using automated facial recognition systems or biometric facial recognition technology?

Answer

Police Service of Northern Ireland does not employ facial recognition technology, however we do feed into the Police National Database (PND), which does.

Request 2

If yes, please provide detail

- a) of the system/technology the force is currently using
- b) for what purpose the system/technology is being used

Answer

Please see answer 1.

Request 3

If no, is your force planning to introduce automated facial recognition systems or any other form of biometric facial recognition technology in the next 2 years?

- a) If yes, please state for what purpose will the system/technology be introduced.

Answer

There are no current plans to introduce this within the next two years.

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.psnj.police.uk

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