



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2018-01402

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Voice Recognition Technology

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 write to request information and records under the FOIA, regarding your force's use of voice recognition technology. Specifically, I am asking the following:

Is your force currently testing voice recognition technology for policing purposes? If yes, please provide detail of:

- a) The purposes for which your force is currently testing voice recognition technology.
- b) The sources from which your force is extracting voice biometrics.
- c) The vendor from which the voice recognition technology was purchased.
- d) The retention time of voice-prints and whether individuals have been informed that their voices are being stored.
- e) Any plans by your force to introduce biometric voice identification as a standard procedure within the next 12 months?

Answer 1

The PSNI is not currently testing voice recognition technology for policing purposes.

Request 2

If your force is currently not testing voice recognition, are there any plans to test the technology within the next 12 months?

Answer 2

The PSNI has no plans to test voice recognition within the next 12 months.

Request 3

If your force is planning to test voice recognition within the next 12 months, please provide detail of:

- a) The purposes for which your force is planning to test voice recognition technology.
- b) The sources from which your force will extract voice biometrics.
- c) The vendors you are planning to purchase voice recognition technology from.

Answer 3

The PSNI is not planning to test voice recognition within the next 12 months, so this request is no information held.

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.