

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2021-02541

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Use of "Super-Recognisers" by PSNI

**Request and Answer:**

### Request

\*\*\* Clarification Received \*\*\*

"Further to your request please consider the following definition of the term 'super-recogniser': a police officer judged to hold above-average abilities in identifying facial characteristics and matching images of the same face across different media."

### Request 1

If your police force uses 'super-recognisers', what is the total number of identifications they made in the year 2020?

### Request 2

Was there an increase or decrease (and by how many) in the number of super-recognisers employed by your police force after August 2018?

### Request 3

Does your police force believe that the facial identification process carried out by 'super-recognisers' for the purposes of criminal investigations or crime detection satisfies the definition of processing under the Data Protection Act 2018? If not, why not?

### Request 4

Does your police force believe that the facial identification process carried out by 'super-recognisers' for the purposes of criminal investigations or crime detection amounts to an interference with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights? If not, why not?

### Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at [www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/](http://www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/)

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 their 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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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