



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2022-02158

**Keyword:** Organisational Information Technology and Equipment

**Subject:** Facial Recognition Technology

### Request and 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 hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

Does the Police Service of Northern Ireland force currently use facial recognition technology in respect of the detection and prevention of crime?

#### Answer

Live facial recognition technology is not currently used by PSNI.

The Police National Database (PND) can be utilised for the purposes of Retrospective Facial Recognition. Please see link under

[Fact Sheet on live facial recognition used by police - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/23/fact-sheet-on-live-facial-recognition-used-by-police-home-office-in-the-media)

#### Request 2

If so, what is the brand name of the system/programme?

#### Request 3

What is the identity of the supplier company?

#### Request 4

How much does the system cost to purchase and operate?

#### Request 5

Disclose if a Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed and its results?

#### Request 6

Disclose if an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and its results?

#### Request 7

What enquiries have been made to independently verify that the system does not have unacceptable bias on the grounds of race, sex or age?

## **Answer to Requests 2-7**

Please see answer to Request 1.

## **Request 8**

If the PSNI does not deploy facial recognition technology, does it currently have any policy or plan in respect of deploying same in the future?

## **Answer**

It is PSNI's intention to explore fully the potential of facial recognition technology. A working group is to be established in October 2022 in conjunction with our stakeholders.

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

If you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint) (<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>).

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.