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Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

24/09/2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2484/2025

Thank you for your request for information regarding metaverse policing, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

I am aware of the Chief Scientific Adviser's 2025 report on Police Emerging Science and Technology Trends, which mentions opportunities in policing the metaverse.

Please provide the following information:

1. Copies of any policies, strategies, reports, or internal briefings produced since January 2020 that refer to policing in *metaverses, online virtual worlds, or immersive VR/AR/XR environments*.
2. Information on police-led pilot projects, trials, or test projects that relate to policing in virtual worlds (including, but not limited to, virtual crime reporting, virtual engagement hubs, or VR-based operational training). This may include:
 - a. Project names
 - b. Trial dates
 - c. Involved forces
 - d. Full budget
 - e. Current total spend
 - f. Written reports of the trial
3. Any assessments, risk registers, or evaluations relating to the opportunities and threats of policing in the metaverse

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does not hold recorded information captured by part one of your request.

The NPCC does hold recorded information captured by part two of your request:

- 2a Adaptive VR training simulations – Adaptive Immersive Learning Scenarios to support problem-solving and situational awareness in the force
- 2b June 9th 2025 –
- 2c Dyfed Powys
- 2d £30k
- 2e £30k
- 2f No recorded information held by the NPCC

The NPCC does hold recorded information captured by part three of your request:

- Police Emerging Science and Technology Trends Report

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Policing Areas of Research Interest.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- INTERPOL – METAVERSE – A Law Enforcement Perspective.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Policing in the metaverse: what law enforcement needs to know.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Deloitte Metaverse Report – Future is here.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Interpol Technology Assessment – Metaverse.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Metaverse – Future Today Institute.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Metaverse Environmental Assessment 9th December 2022 Version 1.0

This information is withheld in full by virtue of S23 Information supplied by or relating to security bodies.

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Metaverse Environmental Assessment: Supporting Annex 9th December 2022 Version 1.0

This information is withheld in full by virtue of S23 Information supplied by or relating to security bodies.

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Metaverse beyond the hype: Multidisciplinary perspectives on emerging challenges, opportunities, and agenda for research, practice and policy.

This information is publicly available to you and engages S21 Reasonably Accessible by Other Means.

In wishing to provide assistance to you, this information is published [here](#).

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

- Tech UK Metaverse Presentation.

This information is provided to you with minor S40 Personal Information redaction.

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

The legislation: Section 21 Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

S21 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

The legislation: Section 23 Information supplied by, or relating to security bodies

- (1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to any of the bodies specified in subsection (3)
This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest test.

The legislation: Section 40 Personal Information

- (1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if

- (a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and**
- (b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.**

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

- (a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or
- (b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(3B) The second condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing).

Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and either the first or the second condition is satisfied.

S40(2) applies to third party personal data. Any release would breach the data protection principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018. S40(2) has been engaged by virtue of S40(3)(a)(i). Any disclosure of withheld information would breach the first data protection principle of fair and lawful processing.

This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.