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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/security-policy-framework/hmg-security-policy-framework#risk-management>



Facial Recognition Technology Board

6th November 2025 1000 – 1200, via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight, Metropolitan Police Service

Attendance and Apologies

Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight Metropolitan Police Station

Dorset Police, Staff Officer

British Transport Police, Chief Inspector

Kent Police, T. Detective Inspector

Cumbria Police, CCTV Manager

Merseyside Police, Digital Futures Manager

Leicestershire Police, Identification Manager

Sussex Police, Detective Chief Superintendent

Avon and Somerset, Superintendent

Staffordshire Police, Forensics Strategic Lead

Hampshire & IoW Police, Head of department

Cheshire Police, Chief Inspector

College of Policing, Policing Standards Manager

Biometric Function, Sergeant

Wiltshire Police, Detective Superintendent

Dorset Police, Staff Officer

Northamptonshire, Detective Superintendent

British Transport Police, Detective Superintendent

Home Office, Chief Inspector

CLOSED

Lancashire Police, Digital change

Cumbria Police, Detective Chief Inspector

CLOSED

Avon and Somerset Police, Head of digital and projects

Greater Manchester Police, Inspector

Home Office, Guest (Data Analytics)

Thames Valley Police, Representative
 City of London, Programme Manager
 Home Office, Senior Policy and Portfolio Lead
 Bedfordshire Police, Chief Inspector
 Essex Police, T. Detective Chief Inspector
 Home Office, Project and Governance Manager
 CLOSED
 Warwickshire Police, Protection Service Manager
 West Midlands Police, Sergeant
 Secretariat, Minutes
 Norfolk Police, FRT force lead
 Greater Manchester Police, Detective Chief Superintendent
 Surrey Police, Chief Inspector
 Isle of Man Police, Digital Transformation
 Police Scotland, Detective Inspector
 CLOSED
 Digital Data and Technology Coordinator, Representative
 Essex and Kent Police, Detective Superintendent
 Norfolk Police, Inspector
 Devon & Cornwall Police, Analyst
 Metropolitan Police Service, Representative
 Merseyside Police, Head of force operations
 Thames Valley Police, Representative

Apologies:

Dorset Police, Assistant Chief Constable
 Cleveland Police, Detective Chief Inspector
 Northamptonshire Police, Representative
 Staffordshire Police, Detective Chief Superintendent
 Merseyside Police, Representative
 CLOSED
 Police National Database, Staff Officer
 Metropolitan Police, Senior Technologist
 West Midlands Police, Assistant Chief Constable
 Devon and Cornwall Police, Body Worn Camera Portfolio

1 & 2 Previous Minutes & Actions

Chair welcomed attendees. Introductions given by new attendees.
 Previous minutes were agreed.
 No outstanding actions

3. Home Office (HO) Update

- A brief reintroduction was provided to the attendees
- The attendees received a recap of the Home Office's legal basis for using Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), noting that there are an existing legal basis and growing interest in developing a bespoke legal framework to support policing. Following a series of engagements, a public consultation is being launched.

- The attendees were also given an overview of the Home Secretary's responses to recent questions on FRT raised on the 3rd November 2025, highlighting the intention to provide policing with the backing of a clear framework to help avoid future legal challenges and build confidence in using the technology. It was further noted that a question had been raised regarding the use of FRT on the transport network.
- The consultation, once live, will run for 12 weeks and will be public. It will include engagement events to gather views and responses. There will Comms to complement the Consultation.

A question was raised on how consideration will be given to ensure a measured response to the consultation.

During the consultation, there will be opportunities for individuals, forces, and board attendees to participate in engagement events. Feedback is welcomed from all.

Action:

- A. CLOSED
- B. CLOSED

4. Home Office Insight and Analysis

A privileged and restricted briefing was provided to the board regarding public perception survey of Facial Recognition Technology, focusing on Retrospect Facial Recognition (RFR).

A request was made to forces to share case studies.

The team will be supporting the Consultation.

4. Retrospective Facial Recognition - RFR

An update regarding the Home Office's Strategic Facial Matcher (SFM) was presented to the attendees. There will be an operational evaluation of the concept with a small number of forces with oversight and agreement from chief officers.

A question was asked regarding policy documentation – it was noted the forces will be required to complete a policy document in conjunction with SFM.

5. APCC Facial Recognition Notable Practice

A brief background on governance was shared regarding the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Facial Recognition Notable Practice.

The PCC and Chief Constable of Bedfordshire have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for forces using, or interested in using, Live Facial Recognition (LFR).

This MOU has not yet been signed off by the NPCC. It was agreed that the MOU will be considered by the Board, with feedback provided via the Digital, Data and Technology Coordination Committee (DDaTCC) for final approval.

It was noted that UK forces and law enforcement agencies have varying structures, including authorities and Mayors.

A representative from the Metropolitan Police Service shared how valuable such relationships and engagements are.

Action – CLOSED

6. Live Facial Recognition

- An update was provided on the CLOSED, noting its success in sharing operational best practice.

6. Live Facial Recognition

- Bedfordshire Police and Greater Manchester Police shared updates on their first deployments using Home Office and NPCC-funded vans, including key insights, transition to Business as Usual, resource and operational considerations, and technical challenges.
- Mutual aid considerations for using HO and NPCC vans were discussed, highlighting the time required for documentation and technical planning. This led to a wider conversation on deployment models, the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) portfolio, and supporting forces in understanding LFR requirements.
- Technical extraction processes were discussed, including automation.
- The Board was reminded of the LFR Authorised Professional Practice, particularly the guidance on watchlists.
- An overview of Croydon LFR deployments was provided, noting the use case, engagement, and key considerations.
- Clarification was given following a question from an attendee regarding the media attention of Hammersmith and Fulham Council and LFR use. The MPS lead and Chair confirmed that these reports were unfounded.

7. AOB

The HO representative noted the use of LFR by Immigration Enforcement trials.

11. Next Meeting

16th December 2025



NFRT Board
ACTION TABLE

Ref	Ref	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status
06.11.2025	53a	CLOSED	CLOSED	TBC	Ongoing
06.11.2025	53b	CLOSED	CLOSED	TBC	Ongoing
06.11.2025	54	CLOSED	CLOSED	31.11.2025	Ongoing