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



Facial Recognition Technology Board

9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 1400-1600, via Microsoft Teams

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

**Attendance and Apologies**

- Metropolitan Police Service, Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight
- Kent Police, T. Detective Inspector
- Surrey & Sussex, Project Manager
- NPCC CCTV Portfolio
- Leicestershire Police, Identification Manager
- Thames Valley Police, Detective Superintendent
- Thames Valley Police, Representative
- Lancashire Police, Programme Director
- Avon and Somerset, Superintendent
- South Wales Police, Chief Inspector
- Norfolk Police, Chief Inspector
- CLOSED
- Hampshire & IoW Police, Head of Department
- West Yorkshire, Chief Inspector
- Cheshire Police, Chief Inspector
- College of Policing, Policing Standards Manager
- Information Commissioners Officer, Guest
- National Biometric Function, Sergeant
- Cleveland Police, T. Head of Digital Service Division
- Dorset Police, Representative
- Home Office, Chief Inspector
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- British Transport Police, Inspector
- National Capabilities Manager – CCTV
- South Yorkshire, Detective Inspector
- Greater Manchester Police, Inspector

National Biometric Function, T. Ch. Inspector  
 City of London, Programme Manager  
 Devon and Cornwall Police, Sergeant  
 CLOSED  
 Home Office, Senior Policy and Portfolio Lead  
 Metropolitan Police Service, Inspector  
 CLOSED  
 Warwickshire Police, Head of Investigations  
 Information Commissioners Officer, Guest  
 Police National Database, Staff Officer  
 Metropolitan Police, Chief Inspector  
 Surrey Police, Chief Inspector  
 Norfolk Police, D. Superintendent  
 Police Scotland, Detective Inspector  
 CLOSED  
 Metropolitan Police, Senior Technologist  
 City of London Police, Business Change Manager  
 Essex and Kent Police, Detective Superintendent  
 Nottinghamshire Police, Representative  
 Hampshire Police, D. Chief Superintendent  
 Metropolitan Police Service, Representative  
 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory  
 Merseyside Police, Chief Inspector  
 National Biometric Function, Minutes

**Apologies:**

Suffolk Police, D. Chief Superintendent  
 Merseyside Police, ICT Manager  
 West Midlands Police, Assistant Chief Constable  
 CLOSED  
 CLOSED  
 Staffordshire Police, Detective Chief Superintendent

**1 & 2. Welcome, Introductions and Previous Minutes and Actions**

Chair welcomed attendees. Introductions given by new attendees.

Previous minutes were agreed.

Review of outstanding actions – Ref 52 Closed – the Chair noting there is no change (for now) – there are definitions that exist within the Authorised Professional Practice and on individual forces websites relating to the definitions of facial recognition CLOSED

**3. Home Office update**

- It was noted that the former Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, had previously announced the deployment of 10 Live Facial Recognition (LFR) vans, alongside the launch of a public

consultation on proposed legislation. In light of recent changes in the Home Secretary and Policing Minister roles, clarification was sought on whether there remains ministerial agreement to proceed with the consultation as planned.

- A request was made for police forces to share any judicial outcomes or productivity-related benefits that could support the evidence base for the effectiveness of the three LFR capabilities.
- Attendees were also invited to provide any local feedback they had received regarding the use of LFR technology.

#### 4. Programme Tabula

A brief update was provided to the board, noting the change in Ministers and the potential timeline.

#### 5. Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR)

- An update was provided by Police National Database (PND) representative, noting RFR within PND is legal & effective national gallery of images. Policing needs to use every tool to investigate crimes. It was also reiterated to the attendees the comments of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) on RFR.
- A case study was presented to the board which is due to go live in the coming months, funded by the NPCC. Feedback was provided regarding the understanding of the system being considered.
- Strategic Facial Matcher (Home Office) provided an updated of current testing and considerations.

#### 6. Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

Guest speakers from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) delivered a presentation to attendees, outlining ongoing work being conducted through their audits of force processes following the publication of the ICO's AI and Biometric Strategy.

The ICO expressed a desire to understand both the current use and future development of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) within policing, building upon insights from their previous review. Their aim is to ensure strategic alignment, provide informed support to policing bodies, and help maintain public confidence.

In response to questions from both attendees and the Chair, the ICO clarified that their audits focus primarily on the processes within police forces. They are seeking to better understand how FRT is evolving and are encouraging forces to share developments in this area.

The Chair requested that the ICO's position statements and supporting tools be both practical and implementable, and proposed ongoing collaboration to ensure their effectiveness in operational settings.

The ICO also shared valuable insights regarding Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), emphasising the importance of incorporating key learnings and ensuring that assessments accurately reflect current practices.

#### 7. Operator Initiated Facial Recognition (OIFR)

No updates

**8. Live Facial Recognition (LFR)**

- Engagements and feedback were shared with the board, including ethics committees, community groups, mayoral and PCC's offices. Demonstrations with internal and external parties, one force noted common questions regarding legalisation.
- Metropolitan police shared an overview of the significant engagement leading to the deployments over the August Bank Holiday weekend on the outskirts of the Notting Hill Carnival footprint. A board member noted the importance of force communication and the noted media interest before the deployment. It was also noted the deployment results are publicly available.

**9. Open Discussion**

No topics raised

**10. AOB**

None noted

**11. Next Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> November 2025



**NFRT Board  
ACTION TABLE**

Ref	Ref	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status