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National Facial Recognition Technology Board

20th January 2026 1300 - 1400, via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight, Metropolitan Police Service, NPCC Facial Recognition Lead

Attendance and Apologies
Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight Metropolitan Police Service Dorset Police, Sergeant British Transport Police, Chief Inspector Humberside Police, D. Chief Inspector Kent Police, T. Detective Inspector Lancashire Police, Representative Home Office, Strategic Delivery Cumbria Police, CCTV Manager NPCC National Capabilities Manager – CCTV Leicestershire Police, Identification Manager Thames Valley Police, Detective Superintendent Merseyside Police, Inspector Sussex Police, Detective Chief Superintendent Hertfordshire Police, T. Chief Inspector South Wales & Gwent Police, Chief Superintendent Norfolk Police, Chief Inspector Merseyside Police, Sergeant Hampshire & IoW Police, Head of department Wiltshire Police, Detective Superintendent West Yorkshire, Chief Inspector Cheshire Police, Chief Inspector College of Policing, Policing Standards Manager NPCC National Facial Recognition Unit, Sergeant Metropolitan Police Service, Inspector Northumbria Police, D. Superintendent

British Transport Police, Detective Superintendent
 Home Office, Chief Inspector
 Bedfordshire Police, T. Chief Superintendent
 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Representative
 Cumbria Police, PND force lead
 North Yorkshire Police, D. Chief Inspector
 South Yorkshire, Detective Inspector
 Cambridge Police, Representative
 NPCC National Facial Recognition Unit, T. Chief Inspector
 National Police Chiefs Council, Communications Manager
 CLOSED
 South Wales Police, Data Protection Lead Officer
 Home Office, Senior Policy and Portfolio Lead
 Home Office, Project and Governance Manager
 CLOSED
 Warwickshire Police, Protective Service Client Manager
 West Yorkshire Police, D. Inspector
 West Midlands Police, Assistant Chief Constable
 Thames Valley Police, Inspector
 Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) , Emerging Technology Lead
 NPCC National Facial Recognition Unit, Minutes
 Greater Manchester Police, D. Chief Inspector
 Norfolk Police, Representative
 Police National Database, Staff Officer
 Metropolitan Police, Chief Inspector
 Surrey Police, Chief Inspector
 Greater Manchester Police, Seargent
 Devon and Cornwall, D. Chief Inspector
 CLOSED
 Northamptonshire Police, D. Chief Superintendent
 Essex and Kent Police, Detective Superintendent
 Hampshire and IOW Police, Detective Chief Superintendent
 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Representative
 Metropolitan Police Service, Representative

Apologies

CLOSED
 Merseyside Police, Manager
 Greater Manchester Police, Inspector
 South Wales and Gwent Police, Superintendent
 Lancashire Police, Digital change
 Home Office, Facial Recognition Policy Portfolio

1 & 2 Previous Minutes & Actions

Chair welcomed attendees. Introductions given by new attendees.
 Previous minutes were agreed.
 Outstanding actions – CLOSED

The APCC LFR MOU has been drafted following the feedback provided – key consideration within the MOU is the need for operational independence for policing. Regarding the document, this board will extend an invitation to work with the APCC to bring the content up to date and current.

Action: CLOSED

3. West Midlands Update

- The forces representative (CLOSED) shared the feedback from the working groups on their policy documentation for Retrospective (RFR) and Operator Initiated Facial Recognition (OIFR) (CLOSED)
- CLOSED
- CLOSED
- CLOSED
- CLOSED

Action: CLOSED

4. Retrospective Facial Recognition - RFR

- Strategic Facial Matcher has moved governance within the Home Office.
- Update provided on testing phase and operational evaluation.
- PND noted the RFR capability is an intelligence tool, legal and effective – Policing needs to use every tool available to them. Communications have been shared to all forces from Chief Constable Blackman, NPCC PND lead providing guidance for what mitigation forces should have in place when using PND.
- It was also noted that there has not been any adverse incidence reported to PND since the reviewed mitigations that have been put in place.
- Home Office noted His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire Rescue Service (HMICFRS) have been commissioned to do an inspection on police use of RFR following the 'Independent Testing of Facial Recognition Technology: National Retrospective Facial Recognition Algorithm used to search the Police National Database' (published December 2025) and the mitigations in place. Any recommendations will help the Home Office to identify learnings and contribute to legislation.

5. Home Office update

- The White Paper on Police Reform is likely to be published next week. There will be some Home Office communications around the publication.
- With regards to the Consultation: there has been good engagement and responses continue to be received.
- A working group regarding the legislation has contributed to discussions around proposals, such as different use cases: safeguarding and enforcement and thoughts to future proof the legislation and provide simplified oversight.

6. Consultation

- The Chair referenced recent communication to Chief Constable's on responding to the Home Office '*Consultation on a new legal framework for law enforcement use of biometric, facial recognition and similar technologies*' and highlighted that there would be a national board response focused primarily on facial recognition technology (FRT) and oversight of use.
- , Individuals, forces and national groups are welcome to respond to the Consultation.
- Attendees were given an overview of the FRT-related questions within the consultation and invited to share their views to support the national board's submission.
- BTP shared their views and insights.
- A Home Office representative (CLOSED) offered several observations for reflection.

Action CLOSED**7. Immigration**

An overview of the journey from concept to operational deployment at Holyhead, including considerations of legality, proportionality, ethics and purpose. Lessons learnt were shared, and thoughts on future use cases.

CLOSED.

8. Live Facial Recognition - LFR

- National Mobile LFR Capability update provided with an overview of deployments using the Home Office and NPCC funded vans, noting Mutual Aid deployments.
- National Police Coordination Committee (NPoCC) Role Profiles have been shared with Regional Information and Co-ordination Centres (RICCs)..
- Surrey and Sussex representative noted the positive impact LFR has had in their town centres. Key learnings shared regarding stakeholder engagement and the criticality of a considered media campaign.
- West Yorkshire representative also noted a number of lessons learnt and the importance of continued engagement with stakeholders and community groups.
- Norfolk provided an update regarding their planned Mutual Aid deployments.
- Thames Valley Police and Hampshire representative described their media engagement and the positive feedback they have received from local shops.
- CLOSED

Action – CLOSED

Action – CLOSED

11. Next Meeting

25th March 2026



NFRT Board
ACTION TABLE

Ref	Ref	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status
06.11.2025	53a	CLOSED	CLOSED	TBC	Closed
06.11.2025	53b	CLOSED	CLOSED	TBC	Closed
06.11.2025	54	CLOSED	CLOSED	31.11.2025	Closed
20.01.2026	54 follow on	CLOSED	CLOSED	20.01.2026	Closed
20.01.2026	55	CLOSED	CLOSED	25.03.2026	Progressing
20.01.2026	56	CLOSED	CLOSED	28.01.2026	Open
20.01.2026	57	CLOSED	CLOSED	25.03.2026	Open
20.01.2026	58	CLOSED	CLOSED	TBC	Open