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Author and Contributors:	CLOSED
Force/Organisation:	NPCC
Date Created:	25.03.2026
Coordination Committee:	Intelligence
Portfolio:	Facial Recognition Technology
Attachments @ para	N/A
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Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) Board

25th March 2026, 0930 - 1130 via Microsoft Teams

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

Attendance and Apologies

Metropolitan Police Service, Director of Performance, Tasking and Insight

Avon and Somerset Police, Representative

British Transport Police, Chief Inspector

Home Office, Facial Recognition Policy and Portfolio

Northamptonshire Police, T/Assistant Chief Constable

Home Office, Strategic Delivery

NPCC National Capabilities Manager – CCTV

Leicestershire Police, Identification Manager

Thames Valley Police, Detective Superintendent

Sussex and Surrey Police, Sergeant

Wiltshire Police, Detective Superintendent

British Transport Police, Representative

College of Policing, Policing Standards Manager

National Facial Recognition Unit, Sergeant

Home Office, Chief Inspector

CLOSED

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Representative

Lancashire Police, Head of Department

Cumbria Police, PND force lead

CLOSED

South Yorkshire, Detective Inspector

British Transport Police, Inspector

Isle of Man Police, Representative

National Facial Recognition Unit, T/Chief Inspector

Home Office, Facial Recognition Policy and Portfolio

South Wales Police, Data Protection Lead Officer

Home Office, Senior Policy and Portfolio Lead
 Metropolitan Police Service, Inspector
 CLOSED
 West Yorkshire Police, Detective Inspector
 West Midlands Police, Assistant Chief Constable
 Home Office, Emerging Technology Lead
 National Facial Recognition Unit, Minutes
 Norfolk Police, ANPR Manager
 Metropolitan Police, Chief Inspector
 Isle of Man Police, Digital Transformation
 Police Scotland, Detective Inspector
 Metropolitan Police, Senior Technologist
 Sussex Police, Inspector
 South Wales and Gwent Police, Superintendent
 Cleveland Police, Detective Chief Inspector
 Essex and Kent Police, Detective Superintendent
 Bedfordshire Police, Detective Chief Inspector
 Devon and Cornwall, Innovation and Futures Analyst
 Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Representative

Apologies

Merseyside Police, Sergeant
 Suffolk Police, D. Chief Superintendent
 Essex Police, T/ Detective Chief Inspector

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

Chair welcomed attendees. Introductions given by new attendees.
 Previous minutes were agreed.
 Actions: CLOSED

3. Home Office update

- An update was provided to the board regarding the *Consultation on a new legal framework for law enforcement use of biometrics, facial recognition and similar technologies*. Number of responses referenced.
- The public response to the consultation is planned for May 2026.
- It is hoped that any new legislation can be discussed at the next session of Parliament.
- The White Paper published in January referenced FRT and funding as well as a new National Police Service.
- The increase in media attention over the past few weeks regarding FRT was noted.
- An overview of the developing governance structure within the Home Office Facial Recognition portfolio was discussed
- It was noted by an attendee that inspections are currently being conducted by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMRCFRS)

4. Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR)

- The Home Office provided an update on the RFR web portal – Law Enforcement Facial Recognition (LEFR) programme (previously Strategic Facial Matcher (SFM)), with a planned period of test and learn for 12 weeks.
- Questions were asked of the representative regarding timelines for testing and review to ensure suitability for policing needs.

5. Operator Initiated Facial Recognition (OIFR)

- A high-level overview of the proof of concept being planned by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) for an OIFR solution was raised, discussing the use cases and operational requirements.
- A point was shared by an attendee regarding how OIFR had been used operationally by South Wales Police.
- It was also noted a functioning RFR solution is required within force for an OIFR solution to be available for forces - currently using localised RFR solutions with custody images from their local record management systems.
- A question was asked regarding documentation, ownership, definitions and use cases and how they vary from a force using Police National Database (PND) . **An ask was made for the force to share their OIFR documentation.**
- A Home Office representative noted an agnostic approach with definitions within the consultation, noting some capabilities will require specific use cases in any future legislation.

6. Live Facial Recognition (LFR)

- A high level lessons learnt summary was shared with the attendees focussing on strategic, technical and operational embedding of LFR in the 10 Home Office and NPCC funded LFR vans.
- A brief update was shared regarding future funding, noting consultation on operating models and functionality.
- A successful test and learn bid was shared with the board.

7. Equitability testing

- Essex police shared an overview of the recently published National Physical Library (NPL) and the Cambridge testing of the *Corsight apollo 4* algorithm to assist with the forces public sector equality duty (PSED).
- Essex are due to carry out LFR deployments at the threshold setting .55.
- It was noted by a number of attendees including the Chair of the importance and responsibility of forces to understand the algorithm, its accuracy, any bias at settings used and how it works in an operational setting. Engagement with the Office of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor is helpful to understand how to maximise the effectiveness of the algorithm while mitigating any bias.

The Chair noted a competitive market of independently tested providers is beneficial in providing value for money and effective solutions for policing.

8. AOB

- Essex noted a proof of concept of RFR and how it could be used as part of an investigation to review CCTV footage. NPCC CCTV representative made a number of points for consideration and engagement.

8. AOB

- College of Policing have received an approach from a Body Worn Video (BWV) provider regarding the use of LFR and BWV. The 'Go Southampton' trial within the private sector was noted, and the intrusion/ privacy challenged linked to facial recognition was referenced.
- A point of note was referenced conveyed by an attendee from the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR) regarding FRT and the FSR's codes.

9. Next meeting

19th May, 2026 – Time TBC



NFRT Board
ACTION TABLE

Ref	Ref	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status
		None noted March 2026			