



Home Office



# Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Strategy 2016 - 2020

Version 1.0  
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# Document Control

## Change Control

Version	Date	Change	Author
0.1	2 March 2016	Initial draft version	Bill Mandeville
0.2	9 March 2016	Strategic intent revised by ACC Kennedy	Bill Mandeville
0.3	21 March 2016	Revised following input from Neil Winterbourne as senior user.	Bill Mandeville
1.0	14 April 2016	Version as presented to NUG	Bill Mandeville

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose and Scope

This document articulates the strategy for the use of ANPR technology by the police and other law enforcement agencies (LEA) throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This strategy addresses the use of ANPR by LEA at national, regional and local levels taking account of the implementation of the National ANPR Service (NAS).

## 1.2 The overall aim of the Strategy

The overall aim of this strategy is to set out a clear statement of how LEA use of ANPR is to be advanced during the period to April 2020 and the priorities within the scope of the National ANPR Programme.

## 1.3 The timescale of the Strategy

The strategy covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. It is restricted to this period as the management and use of ANPR is likely to develop significantly following the implementation of the NAS and any attempt to predict the future beyond implementation is likely to be made irrelevant by advances in technology and the operational use of ANPR by LEA.

# 2 Stakeholder analysis

## 2.1 Primary Stakeholders

2.1.1 The main organisations that have a stake in this Strategy and whose representatives will be invited to commit to it are as follows:

- Approved Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) as defined within National ANPR Standards for Policing (NASP)
- National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)
- Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)
- Home Office

## 2.2 Secondary Stakeholders

2.2.1 There are several secondary stakeholders. These include:

- College of Policing
- Counter Terrorism Units (CTU)
- Counter terrorism Intelligence Units (CTIU)
- Department for Transport (DfT)
- Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

- Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB)
- Surveillance Camera Commissioner (SCC)

## 3 Strategic Vision

### 3.1 Strategic Intent

3.1.1 The strategic intent during the period of this strategy is:

- to strengthen and develop the existing fundamental capabilities that ANPR brings to the protecting the public and reducing crime in relation to the following law enforcement activities;
  - Operational Response – real - time response to ANPR matches relating to vehicles of interest,
  - Intelligence Development – using the value of ANPR data
  - Investigations – using ANPR data to support investigations, and,
- to ensure public confidence in the development, management and use of ANPR by LEA taking account of privacy concerns, and maximising transparency
- to maximise the benefits from NAS as a cost effective service.
- to ensure a consistent approach in maximising the efficiency and effectiveness in the use of ANPR

### 3.2 Strategic Goals

3.2.1 The key goals over the period of the strategy are that the following will have been achieved:

- LEA processes and procedures are in place to realise the potential of ANPR in providing consistent operational response to ANPR matches relating to vehicles of interest.
- LEA processes and procedures are in place to realise the potential of ANPR data analysis in intelligence development.
- LEA processes and procedures are in place to realise the potential of ANPR data analysis in investigation.
- Approved Professional Practice and learning and development provisions within the remit of the College of Policing support staff development and their use of ANPR in line with best practice.
- Elements of local infrastructure will have been decommissioned and costs will be reduced.
- NAS has been fully implemented providing cost effective functionality to support ANPR use in line with best practice.
- National oversight is established for the development of infrastructure ensuring that is necessary and proportionate taking account of privacy concerns.
- Consistent audit and monitoring of ANPR use is established within all LEA.
- Transparency in the use of ANPR providing an appropriate level of openness by LEA in the collection and use of ANPR data.

# 4 Strategic context

## 4.1 Technology Infrastructure

- 4.1.1 The current national ANPR Infrastructure (NAI) comprising of two core elements, a Back Office Facility (BOF) within LEA and a single central National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) that is in place as at 1st April 2016 will be replaced with a national ANPR System with a local management server providing a link to national infrastructure within a new National ANPR Service (NAS).
- 4.1.2 LEA manage a network of cameras that record number plate sightings which are then in most cases transferred to the NADC. Between approximately 25 million and 35million ANPR reads are sent to the NADC daily. Data is retained for 2 years and the NADC hold approximately 20 billion records.
- 4.1.3 Not all data collected by LEA is currently submitted to the NADC however on implementation of NAS all data will be sent to the central ANPR system within NAS such that the number of reads recorded on that central system is likely to exceed 40 million daily. Data that has not been sent from local ANPR systems will be transferred to the NAS such that a total of approximately 25 billion records will be held.
- 4.1.4 The NAI is supported by National ANPR Standards for Policing (NASP), which specifies the minimum standards to be met by ANPR cameras. NASP also specify the requirements to be met for the deployment of cameras within the NAI taking account of necessity, proportionality and privacy concerns.
- 4.1.5 NASP also set out the responsibilities in the collection, management and use of ANPR data by LEA.

## 4.2 Economic and Financial Environment

- 4.2.1 The police and other LEA continue to face significant challenges to reduce costs and increase efficiencies. The strategy recognises the importance of seeking efficiencies and cost reductions both operationally and in the technology infrastructure.
- 4.2.2 The implementation of NAS provides significant opportunity for LEA to reduce infrastructure costs at a local level in terms of the technology used and in storage of data.
- 4.2.3 ANPR also presents cost effective support to intelligence and investigations that can reduce the costs associated with other activities and shorten the time taken for an investigation to be concluded. NAS provides for appropriate access to national data that together with increased awareness of staff of the value of ANPR to their work will enable cost efficiencies to be achieved.

## 4.3 Operational Maturity

- 4.3.1 ANPR has been established to support core policing for operational response purposes for a considerable time although greater consistency in provision of monitoring and response is required. During recent years there is evidence of the value of ANPR in improving national security, intelligence led investigations and in the investigation of major and serious organised crime leading to the conviction of offenders.

- 4.3.2 The maturity of the use of ANPR data varies across LEA due to knowledge and experience of staff and the limitations of access to data within the current arrangements for the management and use of data. Similarly there is considerable variation between LEA in arrangements for the management of ANPR data.
- 4.3.3 The strategy recognises the need for consistent and effective management of ANPR data supported by appropriate governance. The NAS offers improved management functions within the ANPR application. Consistent management and audit requirements are defined within NASP.

## 4.4 Privacy and Transparency

- 4.1.1 The proportionality in the deployment and use of ANPR by LEA and the impact on privacy is of continued interest. The standards for infrastructure development and for access and to and use of ANPR data within NASP have been developed with advice from the ICO to provide consistent and effective procedures and controls to support proportionate use of ANPR by LEA.
- 4.1.2 The NAS contains a large amount of data and it is recognised that transparency in the development the NAI and the use of that data is important to maintain public confidence and support for the LEA ANPR.
- 4.1.2 The Surveillance Camera Commissioner appointed under provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 has published a Code of Practice that includes 12 principles that have been developed from a set of 14 principles previously published in respect of ANPR. Compliance with the principles within the Code by LEA assists in establishing and maintaining public confidence in the use of ANPR by LEA.
- 4.1.3 The strategy recognises the importance of respecting and addressing concerns regarding privacy and transparency. LEA will consult appropriately regarding infrastructure development and provide appropriate information regarding the operation and use of ANPR, taking account of the need to safeguard the operational effectiveness of the NAI.

# 5 Strategic Objectives

## 5.1 Capability support to LEA

- 5.1.1 Evidence of excellent practice in the operational use of ANPR is present in some LEA and the strategic aim is to develop these practices in all LEA as appropriate to their areas of operational responsibility.
- 5.1.2 The strategic aims in respect of real-time operational response to ANPR alarms relating to vehicles of interest either through a control room or through self-deployment are to:
- Ensure that real-time monitoring and response is proportionate to the priority of the alarm
  - Ensure a consistent and sufficient response by LEA
  - Improve co-operation in, and co-ordination of response by LEA
- 5.1.3 The strategic aims in respect of intelligence development are to:
- Increase LEA staff awareness of the opportunities provided to them by ANPR data
  - Develop best practice for the use of ANPR in intelligence development,
  - Develop best practice for the use of ANPR in offender management.

5.1.4 The strategic aims in respect of investigation are to:

- Increase LEA staff awareness of the opportunities provided to them by ANPR data
- Embed the consideration of the use of ANPR within the investigative process
- Develop and promulgate best practice in the use of ANPR data for surveillance and other forms of support to investigations

## 5.2 Infrastructure Development

5.2.1 Following implementation of the NAS the camera infrastructure will be reviewed to:

- ensure that current deployments are consistent between LEA,
- identify any potential duplication of capability arising as a consequence of integrating local systems into a single national system, with proposals for mitigation,
- identify any gaps in infrastructure provision that may be mitigated by deployment of additional ANPR capability.

5.2.2 Support to the consistent development of infrastructure will be established. Criteria for the deployment of ANPR cameras will be reviewed with consideration of implementing provisions for national approval of any deployment of a fixed site camera for a period of greater than 1 year.

5.2.3 Opportunities for collaboration between LEAs and with other public and private sector operators of ANPR will be explored to reduce the overall number of cameras that are deployed and to reduce the costs of establishing ANPR infrastructure at locations where it is necessary and proportionate to do so. This will contribute to efficiency and take account of privacy concerns by reducing the number of cameras that are deployed at a location.

# 6 Contact Information

6.1 Further advice about the contents of this strategy can be obtained from the Home Office National ANPR Team at [anpr@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anpr@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)