

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES FOR LIVE FACIAL RECOGNITION (LFR)

Guidelines ensuring ethical and
responsible technology use

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE



Governance Overview

The briefing summarises governance principles guiding Live Facial Recognition technology in policing for clear accountability and authority.

Roles and Responsibilities

Focuses on the roles of OPCC, police forces, and officers, along with support mechanisms for effective LFR deployment.

Ethical and Best Practices

Highlights ethical issues for discussion and best practice examples to maintain public confidence and compliance with APP.

STRATEGIC INTENT



Live Facial Recognition (LFR)

LFR uses real-time facial recognition to match live camera feeds against a watchlist, alerting police to persons of interest. It must be **intelligence-led, targeted, and proportionate**.

Purpose:

Locate wanted or high-risk individuals.
Prevent harm (e.g., banning orders, threats).
Support preventative policing in high-risk areas.

Compliance:

Surveillance Camera Code
College of Policing APP
Data Protection Act & UK GDPR
Human Rights Act
NPCC Guidance

OVERSIGHT AND ETHICAL ASSURANCE

Advance Notification & Oversight

- *“Chief Constables will notify the Police and Crime Commissioner in advance of deployment of LFR, indicating the nature of the watchlist” (p.4).*

Scrutiny of Proportionality

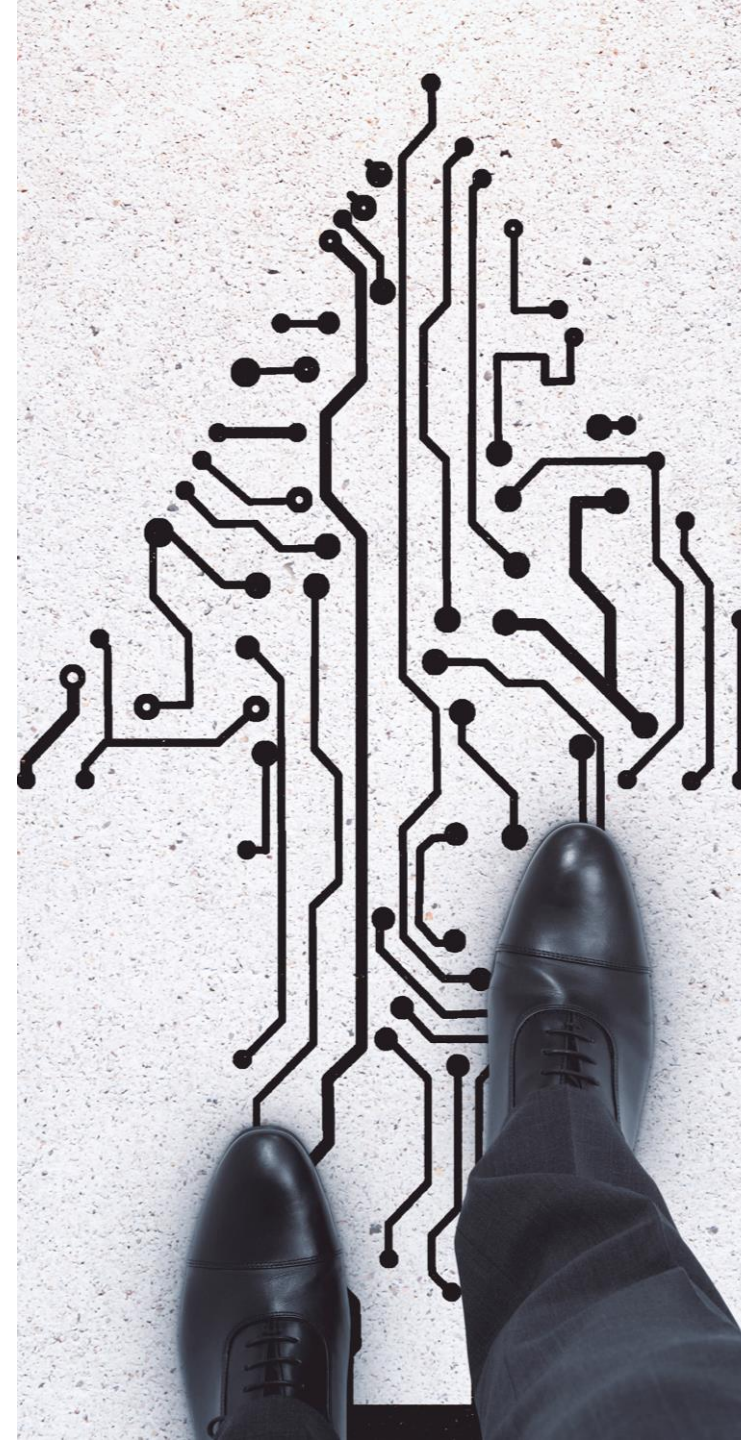
- *“Use of a watchlist needs to be proportionate and based on evidence of threat, risk and harm in the area of deployment” (p.4).*

Public Confidence & Communication

- *“The role of the PCC covers not just the oversight of deployment but also a role in communicating and reassuring the public” (p.3).*

Ethical Assurance

- *“It is paramount to ensure use is fair and lawful, balancing ethics, right to privacy, unbiased treatment and consent” (p.3).*





OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY AND COMPLIANCE

Operational Authority

- *“The decision to deploy LFR is an operational one for the Chief Constable” (p.4).*

Compliance with APP

- *“It is important for it to be used effectively and in accordance with the approved professional practice” (p.4).*

Data Handling

- *“The police do not store or retain any biometric data of any individual who walks past the camera... this is reviewed and deleted in under a second in an automated process” (p.4).*

Transparency

- *“...only deploy Live Facial Recognition overtly, using highly identifiable vehicles and a large amount of signage” (p.5).*



HUMAN OVERSIGHT AND PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

Role of Human Officers

Officers are pivotal in responsibly using LFR technology by making final intervention decisions based on judgement.

“The decision to intervene sits with the human operator who then applies policing skills, information, and intelligence. Live facial recognition technology is not a stand-alone decision maker but an identifier” (p.4).

Importance of Professional Judgement

Professional skills and intelligence guide officers to verify matches before acting, preventing errors.



NATIONAL AND INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT

National Bodies (APCC, NPCC, College of Policing)

- *“The APCC will continue to gather and disseminate notable practice and provide guidance on the use of FR and work with the NPCC and the College of Policing to ensure that it is well governed” (p.2).*

Ethics Panels

- *“The London Policing Ethics Panel... provides in-depth consideration of ethical issues around current and future policing practices” (p.7).*
- *“The IEP developed a checklist of considerations that would help assess the ethical implications of digital policing/use of artificial intelligence” (p.8).*

Strengthening Public Confidence

Ethical oversight and clear principles enhance public trust and integrate ethics into policing policies and operations.

KEY ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Privacy Concerns

Ensuring immediate deletion of non-match biometric data is crucial to maintain public trust and privacy.

Bias and Discrimination

Addressing bias is essential to prevent disproportionate impacts on ethnic minority communities in LFR technology.

Transparency and Accountability

Public notifications and transparency in deployments ensure accountability and build trust.

Human Oversight

Robust human oversight is needed to prevent technology from becoming a stand-alone decision-maker.





NOTABLE PRACTICES FROM UK FORCES

Transparency in Deployment

South Wales Police maintains transparency by notifying the public, using marked vehicles, and inviting public observation during deployments.

Strategic Oversight and Ethics

Metropolitan Police Service provides oversight through a technology board and engages ethics panels to address ethical concerns in policing.

Ethical Guidelines Development

South Yorkshire's Independent Ethics Panel developed checklists and principles guiding decision-making on digital policing technologies.