| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0680  Responded to: 5th April 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Questions 1-6 relate to the period January 2022-January 2023.**

**1. Has Police Scotland deployed live facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**

Police Scotland is not presently using, trialling or testing live facial recognition technology. However, we are keeping a watching brief on the trialling of technology elsewhere.

As technology advances and we all spend more time online we can see that the need to embrace new ways of working and harness technology need to be considered. We are committed to our duty to keep people safe, and this may necessitate us moving with the times and looking to technology to help us to do so in the future.

We recognise the valid concerns about the use of new technology and have developed a governance framework to balance requirements to comply with data protection and privacy regulations, whilst ensuring that we maximise our capabilities to tackle crime and protect the public and ensure legitimacy of the police service.

Prior to any facial recognition technology being implemented, we would carry out consultation and engagement. This would include taking advice and guidance on ethical, human rights and civil liberties considerations.

We are working with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner and are fully supportive of the introduction of a Code of Practice, and the guidance this would provide in futureproofing policing and the use of new technologies.

**2. Has Police Scotland used any form of retrospective facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide the dates and locations at which the images or footage was obtained.**

In common with all other UK police forces, we use facial matching technology provided through the Police National Database (PND). The database is proven technology and an extremely useful tool in helping officers to identify those who commit crimes.

There are no other developed plans to introduce facial search/recognition, however this is currently under review. Better use of data and technology of this type can drive efficiency and add value. As an organisation which places human rights at the heart of all we do, we want our use of data and new technology to be ethical, transparent and in line with our values. Our draft data ethics strategy and framework presented to the Scottish Police Authority in May, will help ensure a consistent approach to decision making and internal and external scrutiny.

We recognise the valid concerns about the use of new technology and have developed a governance framework to balance requirements to comply with data protection and privacy regulations, whilst ensuring that we maximise our capabilities to tackle crime and protect the public and ensure legitimacy of the police service.

Prior to any facial recognition technology being implemented, we would carry out consultation and engagement. This would include taking advice and guidance on ethical, human rights and civil liberties considerations.

We are working with the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner and are fully supportive of the introduction of a Code of Practice, and the guidance this would provide in futureproofing policing and the use of new technologies.

In regards to the date and location aspect of your request, Police Scotland uploads images to PND where a person has been charged with a common law crime or statutory offence in Scotland so that other UK forces can search the database to help identify and prosecute criminals. Images are retained in the Criminal History System for Scotland where an offence was dealt with by a conviction at court or where a conviction by a court predates an image that was taken for subsequent offending.

In the event that there is no court conviction for the case an image was obtained for, or that predates the date a subsequent image was obtained, images are removed from the Criminal History System by Police Scotland which generates an automated update request for removal from PND.

**3. Has Police Scotland deployed operator initiated facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**

Police Scotland do not use Operator Initiated facial recognition.

**4. Has Police Scotland deployed any type of facial recognition in conjunction with body-worn video?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**

Police Scotland have not deployed facial recognition in conjunction with body-worn video.

**5. Where live facial recognition has been used:**

**a. How many images were on the watch list used in each instance?**

**b. From where were these images taken?**

**c. How many of those on the watch list were not wanted for arrest in each instance?**

**i. For what other reasons were these people included?**

**6. At each deployment, how many alerts were generated?**

**a. How many times did police officers consider the match sufficiently credible to stop individuals and perform an identity check?**

**b. Following an identity check, how many stops were verified as correct matches?**

Questions 6 and 7 are not applicable.

**Questions 7-10 relate to the period from February 2023 onwards.**

**7. Does Police Scotland plan to deploy live facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.**

**8. Does Police Scotland plan to use retrospective facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.**

**9. Does Police Scotland plan to deploy operator initiated facial recognition?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.**

**10. Does Police Scotland plan to deploy any type of facial recognition in conjunction with body-worn video?**

**a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.**

In regards to questions 7-10 of your request, I would direct you to my answer to questions 1 and 2.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.