| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0137  Responded to: 3rd June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**This FOIA request relates to artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI) describes a range of technologies which may not necessarily be explicitly referred to as AI – in this requests it includes systems which use machine learning or algorithmic technologies to analyse data. It can also refer to technologies such as large language models and generative tools such as chatbots, or AI image generation systems. Could you please provide:**

1. **Outline details (project name, purpose and description) of any proposals seen by the leadership of the force (e.g Chief Constable or Assistant Chief constable level) for the application of artificial intelligence in new areas of work, produced in the last two calendar years.**
2. **Please indicate if each proposal identified in a) was accepted, rejected or remains under consideration and the date (approximate would do) the proposal was made.**

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within policing is unsurprising and the speed and accuracy that it could bring to police processes make it an attractive way to deliver an effective and efficient service. However, the application of AI can be contentious if not properly explored and consulted on.

Police Scotland are currently engaging both internally and externally with several partners including the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Scottish Biometrics Commissioners with regards to the use of AI and the following aspects:

* Strategy & Policy
* Practical use of AI
* Assurance & Scrutiny

These have also formed the basis of previous Research and Evidence Forums facilitated by the SPA.

Police Scotland’s Data Ethics & Rights Based Pathway will ensure satisfactory governance measures have been taken and all statutory obligations can be met.

The purpose of the Pathway is to meet commitments in the Joint Strategy, Cyber Strategy, the Emerging Technologies Independent Advisory Group (ETIAG) recommendations and the Police Scotland and SPA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to support decision making and to maintain public trust and confidence in the organisation in respect of adoption and use of technology.

Police Scotland understands the need to ensure public confidence and appropriate safeguards in utilising such technologies, however the challenge is to balance this against our statutory obligations in keeping the public safe, whilst making best use of available technologies to assist us in this mission.

This has been echoed by the SPA who are seeking to ensure that we have a balance of governance to introduce new technology. The Rights Based Pathway is therefore the mechanism for us to deliver against the terms of the MOU.

A Data Ethics Triage process has been implemented that will assess all data related and data driven technology projects that go through Police Scotland’s Change process. The triage process will identify where ethical challenges may lie, provide a pathway to enhanced internal and external scrutiny and provide advice to projects to ensure that data and data driven technology is used legally and ethically.

The Triage process is an integral part of the Rights Based Governance Pathway to ensure that Police Scotland can demonstrate a consistent and proportionate approach to assessing data ethics and public interest considerations.

There has been extensive engagement and support internally and externally throughout the development of this process.

Proposals/ activity within the scope of your request are detailed as follows:

**Briefcam**

Briefcam is additional software for CCTV which can match objects, e.g. hats, bags, etc., and larger items such as vehicles.  Whilst the technology does include Live Facial Matching, Police Scotland will not use this element.

This project was first presented to our Information Assurance department in August 2021 and is currently out for public consultation.  No decision has been taken whether this software will be implemented.

## Identity Document Validation Technology

The application would be used during recruitment, to determine if Police Scotland and SPA candidates have the right to work in the UK. The UK Government requires either face to face checks of original documents or the use of certified Identity Documents Validation Technology.

This project is still a work in progress at present and was first presented to our Information Assurance department in September 2022.

## Strategic Facial Matcher

This is a Home Office led project in relation to the inclusion of custody images to the Strategic Facial Matcher platform that would offer wider functionality to the retrospective facial matching capabilities currently on offer through the Police National Database.

This project remains under consideration and was first presented to our Information Assurance department in 2023.

## Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) Facial Matching

CAID is managed by the Home Office and contributes to the fight against Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. It helps identify and safeguard victims, makes investigating Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse faster and more effective and supports international efforts to remove images from the internet.

As part of the continuous improvement of CAID, a ‘Facial Matching’ capability was introduced. In simple terms, it seeks to automatically identify if the image of a person is present within the database, when uploaded by a law enforcement agency.

Following approval it was introduced by the Force in June 2023.

CAID Image Classifier is a software add-on which helps investigators sift and group images with the aim of quickly identifying Indecent Images of Children.

The software does not make decisions, but helps investigators review the images which are likely to be the highest priority first.

Following approval it was introduced by the Force in February 2024.

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.