

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 11 October 2021

Membership

Professor Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Dr Jyoti Belur
Professor Jennifer Brown
Abdul Hye Miah
Dr Priya Singh

Research Adviser

Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

Observers

James Bottomley, MOPAC
Commander Paul Betts, MPS

Retrospective Facial Recognition

1. At the request of the MPS and MOPAC, the Panel undertook to explore the ethical issues that deployment of the new system for Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR) may raise.
2. To provide technical, operational and legal knowledge and to discuss the issues, Lindsey Chiswick attended the meeting, accompanied by specialist colleagues from the MPS. The Panel was advised that MPS has had capability in RFR since 2009 and was procuring a new system. The Panel agreed that as the upgrade would have improved technological capability, it was appropriate to consider the ethical issues.
3. The Panel had a detailed discussion of:
 - 3.1. The composition of the image libraries and the use of probe images, including governance controls for use.
 - 3.2. The lawful use of RFR by the MPS including in relation to legal basis, human rights, data protection and equalities.
 - 3.3. Transparency and future intentions regarding the use of RFR.
4. The Panel thanked the MPS attendees for their open discussion of the issues and willingness to engage with the Panel to ensure that an ethical basis was developed for the use of RFR.
5. The Chair advised that the Panel would welcome further engagement as MPS consideration of these issues matured, taking on board the feedback from the Panel. It was noted that the MPS was continuing to explore the technology's capabilities and develop its operational guidelines so that the dialogue would continue as policies were developed.

Policing and Crime Plan (PCP) / Priorities Matrix Project

6. The Panel noted that Jennifer Brown and Abdul Hye Miah would be meeting with MOPAC to explore how the draft prioritisation matrix could assist in respect of the topic of violence against women and girls (VAWG). They would report to the Panel's November meeting on the outcome of that discussion.

Future Work Plan

7. The Chair updated the Panel on the discussion she had with AC Helen Ball of the topics the Panel might wish to next consider. They had discussed the issue of transparency and duty of candour.
8. The Chair advised that she would also be discussing future projects with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 8 November 2021.