

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 10 June 2024

Membership

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Professor Jyoti Belur
Professor Jennifer Brown
Abdul Hye Miah
Professor Bryan Edwards (apologies)

Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

Observers

Commander James Harman, MPS
Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS
James Bottomley, MOPAC
Tay Sarwar, MOPAC

Introductions and Chair's Update

1. The Chair welcomed Commander James Harman to the meeting, noting that he is the new MPS lead for the London Policing Ethics Panel.
2. The Chair provided the following updates:
 - The Panel's work plan had been shared with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and Assistant Commissioner Pippa Mills. Useful and positive feedback had been received from the Deputy Mayor.
 - Following discussion with MOPAC and the MPS on the topic, the Panel may wish to consider including in their updated consideration of Live Facial Recognition (LFR), the use of Operator Initiated Facial Recognition (OIFR).
 - That the Commissioner's report to the June London Policing Board meeting raised interesting points on preventing violence against women and girls.

Live Facial Recognition Update

3. The Panel had a discussion to identify issues from their 2018 and 2019 reports on LFR that they may wish to revisit, and an initial consideration of the research, information or activities that might be required to inform their work.
4. Identified for further consideration were:
 - A re-running of the quantitative and/or qualitative surveys the Panel commissioned for the original reports, or a revised survey.
 - An assessment of any changes in use or the operating environment.
 - Recent legal, Parliamentary and research findings and reports.
 - Its potential use to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.
 - Its use in covert operations.

- Potential change in public attitudes to the technology.
 - The conditions of use the Panel had suggested in its reports, including their impact.
5. The Panel agreed the following is required to inform their consideration of the ethical issues:
- A good understanding of the issues raised in their earlier reports.
 - A review of the data and survey results from the original work.
 - Consideration of whether a follow-up survey is needed.
 - Consideration of whether the original conditions suggested by the Panel were sufficient.
 - An understanding of how the MPS have met those conditions and their impact.
 - An understanding of how the MPS is currently using LFR.
 - Observing the MPS's LFR processes, from decisions on the development of the watch list through to deployment.
 - An understanding of the training given to officers involved in LFR operations.
 - Reconsideration of the ethical issues in light of Bridges v South Wales Police and the National Physical Laboratory's report on LFR.
 - Undertaking a new literature review.
 - An understanding of the MPS's use of LFR reactively or in proactive policing.
 - Engagement with the MPS on where their thinking has gone in the last 5 years and where they see the most value in the use of LFR.
 - An understanding of OIFR.

Maintaining Trust, Legitimacy and Consent in the Context of Polarised Community Views and Interests

6. With a view to producing a future report on ethical issues arising from policing civil disobedience and the impact on trust, legitimacy and consent, the Panel had an initial discussion of the topic and what advice might be most useful for the MPS.
7. The Panel agreed that as the MPS would be particularly stretched over the summer period, it would be better to engage with the MPS on this later in the year. The Panel's approach would be a reflection on what the MPS is doing, and taking a view from literature on where there is anything missing or more that can be done in terms of those deliberations.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 8 July 2024