

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 13 October 2025

Membership

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Professor Jyoti Belur
Professor Ben Bradford (Apologies)
Professor Jennifer Brown
Abdul Hye Miah

Observers

Natasha Plummer, MOPAC
Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS

Ethical Hazards and Opportunities in Implementing AI for Policing in London

1. Shane Johnson, Professor of Future Crimes at UCL, attended to discuss with the Panel his work and views on potential future threats and crimes arising from AI and new technology. This included how policing might use this technology in an operational setting.
2. There was a discussion of:
 - The importance of collecting robust evidence at each stage of the development process to support the implementation of new technology.
 - Whether there would be more ethical considerations for AI assisting policing operationally than for AI assisting with internal administrative tasks.
 - The potential for unintended consequences arising from some AI and new technology.
 - The ethics of piloting new technology with the public.
 - Cyber security and cyber threats.
 - The difficulty with keeping up with technological advances.
3. The Panel agreed that there were lessons identified from the MPS's implementation of Live Facial Recognition that would be useful for the MPS to consider when it looked to introduce new AI technology. The issues identified were:
 - The need for a clear legal mandate
 - The need for objective evidence of technological validity
 - The requirement of algorithmic transparency
 - The challenge of explainability
 - The need to evidence justice and equity in selection of AI 'decision subjects'
 - The importance of training and accountability for the 'humans in the loop'
 - The importance of well-designed evaluation of the benefits and detriments
 - The need for governance which is both robust and proportionate.

4. The Panel agreed that, recognising the rapid pace of change and with the aim of helping to inform the ethical introduction of AI tools into the MPS, the Chair would write to the Commissioner ahead of the finalisation of the current report, outlining the lessons identified.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 10 November 2025