

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 17 April 2023

Membership

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

Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing (Apologies)

Observers

Commander Jon Savell, MPS
A/Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS
James Bottomley, MOPAC
Tay Sarwar, MOPAC
Alfie Harris, MOPAC

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2023 were approved.

MPS's 'Relentlessly Data Driven' Approach

2. Professor Lawrence Sherman (MPS Chief Scientific Officer) and Aimee Reed (MPS Director of Data) were welcomed to the meeting. They outlined for the Panel their roles within the organisation and the MPS's new data transformation programme.
3. It was explained to the Panel that the MPS's Turnaround Plan has the ambition for the organisation to be relentlessly data driven and evidence-based in delivery. The programme of work required to achieve this was outlined.
4. It was noted that the ethical questions that the data transformation programme raised included that the data can be biased at the point of collection; the risk of using data when quality is variable; and issues associated with using state of the art technology.
5. Professor Sherman provided detail of a project being developed to support the MPS's ambition to reduce violence against women and girls.
6. The Panel agreed that it could support the work of the MPS in its quest to improve its use of data and technology by considering the ethical implications of specific pieces of work.

Openness and Transparency Report

7. The Panel was advised that preparation for publication of its openness and transparency report was now completed and that it would be published imminently.

Chair's Update

8. The Chair advised the Panel that the MPS had provided her with a briefing on the findings of the research the National Physical Laboratory had undertaken on the MPS's facial recognition technology, with a focus on bias and accuracy.
9. There was a discussion of the Police Foundation's publication 'Principles for Accountable Policing' and how the Panel might use them to support the work of the London Policing Board.

Police Officers in Schools

10. The Panel discussed how it would approach its consideration of the ethical issues arising from having police officers in schools. The terms of reference for the investigation were refined and the scope defined.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 12 June 2023