

# London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 9 December 2024

## Membership

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)

Professor Jyoti Belur

Professor Jennifer Brown

Abdul Hye Miah

## Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

## Observer

Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS

## Live Facial Recognition

1. The Panel considered the ethical issues arising from the MPS's use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR), using their Ethics Matrix to shape their considerations. With policing by consent at the heart of the matrix, the discussion included the following:

*State and civil society: Aim to maximise freedom from harm within freedom to flourish*

- Deployment in sensitive areas and the signage.
- The technology's immediate deletion of images.
- The level of authority for deployment and independent scrutiny.
- The potential for 'creep' in the policing use of LFR.
- The public's attitude to the use of LFR.

*Victims: Aim to minimise vulnerability*

- That the Met's intended use of this technology, as set out in its LFR policy document, appeared to be offender focussed rather than victim.
- The lack of evidence in the literature of the impact of LFR on victims of crime.
- The potential impact of any deterrent effect arising from deployment of LFR in hotspots.
- That the strongest link to victims was including registered sex offenders in the watchlist.

*Persons of interest: Aim to maintain respect for humanity, act proportionately and fairly*

- Procedural justice and differential impact on different groups.
- The limited evidence-base to judge its effectiveness.
- The amount of transparency of LFR operations and the impact on its effectiveness.

*Police and partner organisations: Aim to acknowledge the positive powers and limits of policing*

- LFR being used by police for work that sits with other agencies, such as probation.
  - The level of engagement with local partners.
2. The Panel agreed the next steps, including:
- Structuring the report around the matrix and writing the first draft.
  - Re-running the survey from 2019 to see how the views of the public had changed.
  - Understanding whether the MPS had fulfilled the conditions that the Panel had recommended in its 2019 report.

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The Panel's next meeting will be on 13 January 2025