

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 9 October 2023

Membership

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

Research Adviser

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

Observers

Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS
James Bottomley, MOPAC
Tay Sarwar, MOPAC
Alf Harris, MOPAC

Minutes of Meeting

1. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Chair's Update

2. The Chair updated the Panel on her recent meeting with the Assistant Commissioner for Professionalism, Barbara Gray. The Panel are interested in the scope of work presented by AC Gray. Further discussions to determine the nature of this work are ongoing.

Amalgamation of Databases for Police Use of Facial Recognition Technology

3. The Panel noted that, in future, the MPS would like to provide a progress update on their use of retrospective facial recognition technology (RFR).
4. The Panel discussed the Policing Minister's recent comments on using the passport database in tandem with facial recognition technology for crime prevention purposes. The Panel noted that the MPS currently uses its own image libraries for RFR.

Police Technology Oversight Bodies

5. The Panel discussed the government's recent approach to police technology oversight bodies. It was noted that the Chair of West Midlands Police Ethics Committee has offered a meeting to the Panel to discuss this further.

Policing in Schools

6. In preparation for the finalisation of their upcoming report into policing presence in schools, the Panel reviewed the information it had gathered and the issues that it had identified. This included:
 - The context for the presence of police officers in schools.
 - The roles and ethical obligations of police officers in schools.
 - Ethical issues, including the moral justification for police officer presence in schools, the potential unintended consequences and the rights of the child.
7. The Panel discussed:
 - The difference in purpose and impact of having police officers in schools as an educational and child welfare resource, versus their presence to “police the corridors”.
 - The potential ethical alternatives to policing presence in schools. Public health approaches that drew on other professionals such as the DARE 25 programme, provide an insight into how individuals other than warranted officers and those who have professional experience working with young people could fulfil such a role. The Panel will further research UK-based evidence on alternatives to police presence in schools and will provide an update at the next meeting.
 - How it will promote procedural justice; uphold perceptions of justice in different groups; and be justified with evidence of effectiveness.
 - Whether it is essential to achieve policing goals and that of safeguarding children.

The Panel’s next meeting will be on 13 November 2023