

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 12 February 2018

Attendance

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Professor Deborah Bowman
Dr Priya Singh
Professor Leif Wenar

Also in attendance

Richard Martin, MPS
Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing
Martin Tunstall, MOPAC
Sarah Egan, Secretariat

Minutes of Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2018 were agreed.

Chair's Update

2. The Chair gave a summary of her activities in the past month, including her discussion with Charles Raab from the Independent Digital Ethics Panel for Policing.

Action: Richard Martin to advise the Panel of the MPS's involvement with IDEPP.

Evidence Session

3. Tony Porter, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner and David Buxton from his office, together with Meagan Mirza from the Office of the Information Commissioner, attended the meeting to discuss issues around the use of new technology by the police, including Automatic Facial Recognition (AFR) technology. The Panel had previously met with Lucy Bradshaw-Murrow, the Biometrics Commissioner's chief of staff.
4. The discussion included the powers that the Commissioners did and did not have in this sphere, the regulatory environment and their views of the key issues.

Reviewing Progress

5. The Panel considered the evidence and information they had received to date on new technology and AFR, and the further areas and issues they would like to examine. There was a discussion of technology being driven and used in the private realm, and the impact that was having on public bodies such as police and local authorities to use this technology.

6. The Panel discussed the scope of their work in this area – noting that it was a very broad landscape encompassing new and developing technologies as well as the issues of data collection and retention. The Panel noted that it would need to agree on its focus for considering the ethical issues.

Action: Suzanne and Leif to develop options for the review’s scope, for discussion with the Panel.

7. The Panel discussed the commissioning of surveys to gain an understanding of the public’s perception and understanding of the use of digital technology in policing.

Action: Priya and Ben will work with MOPAC to instigate this work.

Administrative update

8. The Panel discussed the invitation to visit the Met’s Special Operations Room when it was operating.

Action: Secretariat to arrange the Panel’s visit to the Special Operations Room.

The Panel’s next meeting will be on 12 March 2018.