



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_24_0569

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 31/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0569

On 06/06/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to request the following please:

1. Does your police force use
 - 1a. Predictive policing
 - 1b. AI assisted video analytics (such as the Fusus platform which uses AI to identify and alert police to specific items of clothing or unattended rucksacks)
 - 1c. Facial recognition (a specific form of AI assisted video analytics distinct from the above point)
2. If so, which company was each technology bought from
3. Are any of these technologies used to aid stop and search practices

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary may holds some relevant information.

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that your request has been sent to the relevant departments and they have confirmed the following:

- 1a. No
- 1b. Yes
- 1c. Gloucestershire Constabulary holds no relevant information in relation to the overt use of Facial Recognition technologies and in addition, in relation to the covert use of Facial Recognition technologies, Gloucestershire Constabulary neither confirms nor denies that it holds any other information relevant to the request by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) – National Security
Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

With Sections 24 and 31 being prejudice based qualified exemptions, there exists the requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not whether information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Any disclosure under FOI is a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, confirming or denying that any other information relating to the covert practice of facial recognition is held would show criminals what the capacity, tactical abilities and capabilities of the force are, allowing them to target specific areas of the UK to conduct their criminal/terrorist activities. Confirming or denying information is held regarding the specific circumstances in which the Police Service may or may not deploy the use of facial recognition would lead to an increase of harm to covert operations and compromise law enforcement. This would be to the detriment of providing an efficient policing service and failure in providing a duty of care to all members of the public.

The threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. Since 2006, the UK Government has published the threat level, based upon current intelligence and that threat is currently categorised as 'substantial', see below link:

[Threat Levels | MI5 - The Security Service](#)

The UK continues to face a sustained threat from violent extremists and terrorists. It is well established that police forces use covert tactics and surveillance to gain intelligence in order to counteract criminal behaviour. It has been previously documented in the media that many terrorist incidents have been thwarted due to intelligence gained by these means.

Public Interest Test

Section 24 - Factors favouring confirmation or denial

Confirming or denying that any other information exists relevant to the request would lead to a better informed public and the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent.

The information simply relates to national security and disclosure would not actually harm it.

Section 24 - Factors against confirmation or denying that any other information is held

To confirm or deny whether Gloucestershire Constabulary holds any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security.

By confirming or denying any policing arrangements of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future

operations to protect the security or infra-structure on the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 31 – Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held:

Confirming or denying whether any further information is held would allow the public to see where public funds have been spent and allow the Police service to appear more open and transparent.

Section 31 - Factors against confirmation or denying that any other information is held:

By confirming or denying whether any further information is held would mean that law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. Security arrangements and tactics are re-used and have been monitored by criminal groups, fixated individuals and terrorists. These security arrangements and tactics would need to be reviewed which would require more resources and would add to the cost to the public purse.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service will not divulge whether any other information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security.

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, providing assurance that the Police Service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both National Security and the integrity of the policing is knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of National Security; this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

However, this should not be taken as necessarily indicating that any information that would meet your request does or does not exist.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 17(1) of the legislation. For this part of your request.

2. The ANPR Cameras are supplied by Cleartone Telecoms PLC

3. Potentially yes, however, there is no recorded information to support this. ANPR is used to detect, deter and disrupt criminality from Local through to National levels.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary