

Date: 7th February 2024
Our ref: FOI/23/001879/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/23/001879/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I write to request information and records under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), regarding the use of facial recognition technology.

Questions 1-6 relate to the period January 2022-January 2023.

- 1. Has Greater Manchester Police deployed live facial recognition?**
 - a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**
- 2. Has Greater Manchester Police used any form of retrospective facial recognition?**
 - a. If so, please provide the dates and locations at which the images or footage was obtained.**
- 3. Has Greater Manchester Police deployed operator initiated facial recognition?**
 - a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**
- 4. Has Greater Manchester Police deployed any type of facial recognition in conjunction with body-worn video?**
 - a. If so, please provide dates and locations for each deployment.**
- 5. Where live facial recognition has been used:**
 - a. How many images were on the watch list used in each instance?**
 - b. From where were these images taken?**
 - c. How many of those on the watch list were not wanted for arrest in each instance?**
 - i. For what other reasons were these people included?**
- 6. At each deployment, how many alerts were generated?**

- a. *How many times did police officers consider the match sufficiently credible to stop individuals and perform an identity check?*
- b. *Following an identity check, how many stops were verified as correct matches?*

Questions 7-10 relate to the period from February 2023 onwards.

- 7. *Does Greater Manchester Police plan to deploy live facial recognition?*
 - a. *If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.*
- 8. *Does Greater Manchester Police plan to use retrospective facial recognition?*
 - a. *If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.*
- 9. *Does Greater Manchester Police plan to deploy operator initiated facial recognition?*
 - a. *If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.*
- 10. *Does Greater Manchester Police plan to deploy any type of facial recognition in conjunction with body-worn video?*
 - a. *If so, please provide dates and locations for each known planned deployment.*

If to provide this information would trigger the cost exemption, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will refine our request. If this request is unclear, we would be grateful if you could contact us as we understand that under FOIA, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct us to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

We understand that you may redact exempted information in documents, but we ask that you show where redactions have been made and give the justification. We also kindly remind you that the time taken for redactions does not usually contribute towards the cost cap under FOIA.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm some of the information requested is held by GMP.

Question 1 – GMP has not deployed live facial recognition.

Question 2 – GMP utilise the retrospective facial recognition functionality on PND. GMP do not have a standalone RFR system.

Question 3 – No

Question 4 – No

Question 5 – Live facial recognition has not been deployed in GMP.

Question 6 – Live facial recognition has not been deployed in GMP.

Question 7 – At this time there is no plan to deploy live facial recognition.

Question 8 – Yes, PND RFR. GMP has no standalone other RFR system in use.

Question 8a – No information held.

Question 9 – No

Question 10 – GMP do not plan to deploy facial recognition in conjunction with BWV at this time.