



Date: 17/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015687/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015687/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I note from media reports that GMP will be using live facial recognition.

Please supply me with:

1. The SOP or other document relating to the procedures used by operators or users of live facial recognition. OR confirm that there is no such guidance or SOP.

2. Details of the method of identifying / selecting officers who will review the facial recognition and provide the "human verification" required by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's (SCC) Code of Practice (Para 2.4).

3. Details of the training and performance analyse of these operators in accordance with the SCC guidance that "Senior (police) officers should ask themselves how they select, train, instruct, deploy, manage and analyse the performance of the human decision maker..."

See - Facing the Camera: Good practice and guidance

4. The number of hours of such training received by an individual operator selected for the role.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have

requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as an exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information requested in question 1 of your request is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. This information is available on [the Live Facial Recognition page of the GMP website](#).

The rest of the information requested is not exempt and is provided below.

1. Exempt under S21, see above.
2. A first layer of human verification is carried out by the Live Facial Recognition (LFR) operator which is followed by the Engagement Officer's verification assessment when they decide whether to contact the individual. LFR Operators in GMP currently all come from the dedicated LFR Unit, Specialist Operations Branch. They are selected using an internal recruitment method from within the Branch. Engagement Officers can come from a variety of roles and are not subject to a selection process.
3. LFR Operators receive training to operate the software from the NPCC National Biometrics Training. Selection is covered in response 2 above. Management and analysis of performance takes place with internal governance and management processes.
4. 8 hours initial training with further opportunities for continuous professional development.