

Friday, 05 June 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016936/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016936/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/05/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

For the purposes of this request, "Live Facial Recognition" or "LFR" means technology which compares live camera footage of faces against a watchlist in real time and produces alerts or possible matches for police review.

Please provide the following recorded information.

1. Current position

As of the date of this request, does your force:

- a) currently use Live Facial Recognition technology operationally;*
- b) currently use Live Facial Recognition technology as part of a pilot or trial;*
- c) have a planned or approved future use of Live Facial Recognition technology;*
- d) have access to Live Facial Recognition technology through another force, policing body, national unit, or shared arrangement;*
- e) not use, trial, plan to use, or have access to Live Facial Recognition technology?*

Please answer by selecting whichever of the above applies and briefly explaining the position held by the force.

2. Use since 1 January 2022

Since 1 January 2022, has your force used Live Facial Recognition technology at least once?

Please answer yes or no.

If yes, please provide only:

- a) the total number of LFR deployments since 1 January 2022;*
- b) the year of the most recent deployment;*
- c) the general policing context of the most recent deployment, for example town centre, transport hub, major event, football match, protest, wanted offender operation, safeguarding/missing person operation, or other.*

3. Governance documents

Please confirm whether your force holds the following current documents relating to Live Facial Recognition:

- a) LFR policy or standard operating procedure;*
- b) Data Protection Impact Assessment;*
- c) Equality Impact Assessment or similar assessment;*
- d) Human Rights Impact Assessment or similar assessment;*
- e) watchlist criteria or watchlist authorisation guidance;*
- f) deployment authorisation template;*
- g) post-deployment review template.*

For this part of the request, I am only asking whether each type of document is held. I am not asking for copies at this stage.

4. Supplier or system

Please state the name of any supplier, software provider, or system used for Live Facial Recognition, if held and if applicable.

5. No use / no information held

If your force does not use LFR and holds no recorded information within scope of this request, please confirm that clearly.

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 that the information requested is held by GMP, however, I am not required to supply it because an exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information is **Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means**. This is because the information is already freely available at:

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/police-forces/greater-manchester-police/areas/greater-manchester-force-content/au/about-us/live-facial-recognition/>