



Freedom of Information Request 651/18

Response date: 26th July 2018

I write to request information and records under the FOIA, regarding South Wales Police's use of live, automated facial recognition (AFR) technology at the Biggest Weekend in Cardiff 26th-27th May. Specifically, I am asking the following:

1. How many total alerts were generated by AFR Locate between 26th – 27th May?

Please detail how many of these relate to:

- a) True-positives
- b) False-positives

2. How many true-positive matches led to:

- a) Interventions/stops
- b) Arrests

3. How many false-positive matches led to:

- a) Interventions/stops
- b) Arrests

4. How many individuals were on the watch list for this event?

- a) How many of these individuals were wanted for arrest, either on a warrant and/or suspicion of criminal activity?
- b) How many of these individuals were not wanted for arrest?
- c) If applicable, why were individuals not wanted for arrest included on the watch list?

5. Was AFR Locate used to collect intelligence? If yes please provide details of:

- a) The purpose
- b) Agencies or forces with whom the information was or may be shared

6. What were the sources of the images used for the watch list, i.e. how many were drawn from the custody image database or any other sources?

- a) If applicable, please detail from what other sources images were drawn.

7. Were any of the images on the watch list drawn from the Metropolitan Police's 'Gangs Matrix'? If so, how many?

8. Please provide details of any planned future deployments of AFR Locate.

Clarification – Yes, I was seeking information about the Biggest Weekend in Swansea 26th – 27th May 2018.

RESPONSE

Since its introduction over nine months ago, over 2,000 positive matches have been made using our 'Identify' facial recognition technology with over 450 arrests. Successful convictions so far include 6 years in prison for robbery and 4.5 years imprisonment for burglary. The technology has also helped identify vulnerable people in times of crisis.

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Of course, no facial recognition system is 100% accurate under all conditions resulting in what are termed “false positives”. This where the system incorrectly matches a person against a watch list.

Technical issues are common to all face recognition systems, which means false positives will be an issue as the technology develops.

Since initial deployments during the European Champions League Final in June 2017, the accuracy of the system used by South Wales Police has continued to improve.

It is also important to stress, that since we introduced facial recognition technology, no one has been arrested where a “false positive alert” has occurred and no members of the public have complained. This is due to importance we place on human judgement.

In all cases, an operator will consider an initial alert and will either disregard it, which happens in the majority of cases, or dispatch an intervention team where a match is considered to have been made.

Where this happens, officers can quickly establish if the person has been correctly or incorrectly matched by traditional policing methods, either by looking at the person or through a brief conversation. If an incorrect match has been made, officers will explain to the individual what has happened and invite them to see the equipment along with providing them with a Fair Processing Notice.

Throughout the trial, South Wales Police has been very cognisant of concerns surrounding privacy and we have built in checks and balances into our methodology to make sure that our approach is justified and balanced.

We have also had detailed discussions and engagement with all interested regulatory partners. This has sought to ensure that we are proportionate in the use of this technology and compliant with the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GPDR).

All of these partners are fully integrated into our strategic approach and attend our Facial Recognition Strategic Partnership Board on a quarterly basis.

The South Wales Police Facial Recognition Team can be contacted at AFR@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Question 1, 1a & 1b

44,468 faces were scanned on 26th – 27th May at the Biggest Weekend in Swansea.

There were 2 positive matches and 10 false positive matches of the faces scanned.

Question 2a

1 individual was stopped as a result of a positive match.

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Question 2b

1 person was arrested as a result of a positive match (the same person mentioned in Question 2a)

Question 3a

Of the false positive matches, none led to interventions/stops.

Question 3b

Of the false positive matches, none led to arrests.

Question 4

The number of individuals that were on the watch list for this event were as follows:

- Saturday 26th May – 620
- Sunday 27th May – 622

Question 4a

The number of individuals on the watch list that were wanted for arrest, either on a warrant and/or suspicion of criminal activity were as follows:

- Saturday 26th May – 418
- Sunday 27th May – 417

Question 4b

The number of individuals on the watch list that were not wanted for arrest were as follows:

- Saturday 26th May – 202
- Sunday 27th May – 205

Question 4c

The reason why these individuals were not wanted for arrest was because the inclusion within the 'other' category would be based on both the intelligence profile for the event and individual utilising a risk based approach. The intelligence profile which would have also had a bearing on the disposal options available for that individual.

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Question 5, 5a & 5b

AFR was not used to collect intelligence.

Question 6 & 7

The images used for the watch list were all custody born images.

Question 8

At the time your request was submitted there were two planned future deployments of AFR Locate:

- Ed Sheeran concerts on 21st June 2018 – 24th June 2018 at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff
- The Rolling Stones concert 15th June 2018 at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff.
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There are no more deployments for Automated Facial Recognition planned at present.

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