



## Freedom of Information Request 995/19

*Response Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

I write to request information and records under the FOIA, regarding South Wales Police's use of live, automated facial recognition (AFR) technology with public surveillance cameras and the 'community engagement' that South Wales Police has carried out. South Wales Police's Data Protection Impact Assessment in relation to Automated Facial Recognition dated 11/10/2018 states:

"In order to ensure that the public are engaged in the use of the technology every opportunity has been taken to demonstrate its use, to include during Automatic Facial Recognition deployments. An example of this was the deployment at the Elvis Festival in September 17, which involved a secondary community engagement vehicle being deployed under the heading of 'How Elvis are you.'"

In relation to this, I am asking the following:

1. What the official purpose of the secondary community engagement vehicle was?
2. What operations did it carry out?
3. Did the secondary community engagement vehicle deploy live facial recognition either in the form of AFR Locate or AFR Identify? If yes, please specify which and confirm:
  - a. What database the technology was searching against and / or where the probe image(s) were taken from
4. How many individuals were stopped for covering their faces while going past the South Wales' Police live facial recognition vans?
5. How many times has South Wales Police deployed a 'community engagement vehicle'? Please provide a list of dates and locations and confirm what the purpose of each deployment was and what operations were carried out, if different to the above stated purpose and operations.
6. Was AFR Locate used to collect intelligence? If yes please provide details of
  - a. The purpose for which intelligence was collected
  - b. Agencies or forces with whom the information was or may be shared

**Continued.....**

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South Wales Police welcomes receiving correspondence in Welsh and English.  
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We consulted with our Digital Services Division who provided the information to answer your request:

### Question 1

The vehicle was deployed to demonstrate the Automated Facial Recognition technology and to engage with the public through the theme of the event, in this case 'Elvis'. It was a light hearted but highly effective engagement mechanism that showcased the effectiveness of the technology.

### Question 2

The community engagement vehicle was not part of any live police operation and was for engagement purposes only. The watch list comprised of open source 'Elvis' images. Members of the public consented to having their faces compared to various images of 'Elvis' to determine which Elvis they were most like. No other faces were scanned by the secondary engagement vehicle other than those members of the public who consented to have their facial images compared with the 'Elvis' watch list.

### Question 3

No

### Question 3a

The system comprised 6 open source images of 'Elvis'.

### Question 4

South Wales Police have never stopped anyone for covering their faces.

### Question 5

South Wales Police has only delivered this model of engagement vehicle on this one occasion; however vehicles for the purposes of demonstration and community engagement have been deployed on all South Wales Police open days over the past 2 years. No AFR technology was deployed at any of these open days.

South Wales Police also proactively invite members of our communities to see the technology when it is operationally deployed where circumstances allow.

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### [Question 6](#)

No

### [Question 6a](#)

Not applicable

### [Question 6b](#)

Not applicable

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