



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date: 15/07/2024

2024/651 - Live Facial Recognition technology (LFR)

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

For all deployments of Live Facial Recognition technology (LFR) by North Wales Police from 28/04/22 to date, have any of the watchlists comprised individuals arrested, detained or convicted under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and/or the Public Order Act 2023?

a. If yes, for each deployment how many individuals were on each watchlist because of the above?

b. If yes, for each deployment what is the breakdown in numbers of individuals arrested, detained or convicted under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and/or the Public Order Act 2023?

North Wales Police can neither confirm nor deny whether information relevant to this request is held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(3) - Law enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemptions and any prejudice (harm) that confirming or denying information is held would cause must be articulated as well as the public interest considerations.

Evidence of Harm

Until recently, the national position was that no details were provided at all about watchlist composition for LFR deployments. However in January this year we reviewed this position with the policing lead and it was slightly amended. Now, forces can consider providing high level breakdown of LFR watchlists, but only by College of Policing guidance categories - that being:

- Wanted by the courts
- Suspected of having committed a criminal offence
- Breach of bail/court/other restrictions if suspect attends the LFR venue
- Missing person at increased risk of harm
- Victim/close associate of an individual wanted by the courts and at risk of harm

As found on our website;

[Live Facial Recognition | North Wales Police](#)

Any other breakdown or detail about watchlist data has an overriding risk that releasing this information would reveal the intelligence picture driving the LFR deployment, identifying what the police know and by extension perhaps don't know about crime/criminal activity in a specified area.

In this request, an overall breakdown of each watchlist into reasons for inclusion has not been requested, just one specific element. Due to the specification in the request, in this case even confirming or denying information is held would be harmful inasmuch as to do so would reveal whether you had individuals of this nature on the watchlist for a specific deployment or not.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial

Confirming or denying any further breakdown is held would allow the public to see more information relating to those people wanted by the Force and allow the Police service to appear more open and transparent. Disclosure of information, if held, would demonstrate that the force is reviewing all contingencies to ensure that it continues its robust fight against all types of criminal activity.

Factors against confirmation or denial

While it is in the public interest to be open and honest about where and when LFR has been deployed, it is not in the public interest to reveal any information which identifies specifics of police intelligence, as doing so risks that information being exploited by criminals to facilitate criminal activity and evade detection.

Balance Test

Information relating to LFR and the watchlist is now available ensuring we are open and transparent,

To confirm any further breakdown of data would provide police intelligence that could be exploited.

Therefore, for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying whether any further information is held, is not made out.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/07/2024