



Response Date:04/02/2026

2026/039 - Use of sound detector technology

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am interested in the growing use of technology capable of detecting "sound events" which is being deployed, often in conjunction with CCTV systems, to monitor public areas.

This technology is designed to use audio inputs to detect sounds such as gun shots, human screams or shouts, speeding vehicles or anti-social behaviour to improve public safety.

Here are some examples of the type of technology I'm referring to:

<https://soundeventdetector.eu/sound-event-detection-for-security/>

<https://north.tech/news/north-to-make-westminster-smarter-and-safer-through-1-2-million-contract-award/>

I am trying to establish the extent to which this technology is currently being used in the UK by police forces where the force operates its own CCTV network in public areas such as town centres or road networks.

Specifically, I would like to ask:

:: Is your force using, or has it previously tested, sound detector technology as described above to monitor public areas for emergencies or anti-social behaviour?

:: If yes, please provide details of how many sound detectors or sound detector-equipped CCTV cameras you are operating and when they were installed.

To be clear, this request does not apply to CCTV or monitoring systems which can broadcast sound via a loudspeaker, for example to issue a public warning. It applies only to technology which monitors public spaces for audio or noise events.

Secondly, this request does not apply to CCTV or monitoring equipment operated by local authorities. It applies only to systems directly operated by police forces.

No information is held in relation to your request.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 29/01/2026

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

**Yn gwneud Gogledd Cymru'r lle mwyaf diogel i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld yn y DU
Making North Wales the safest place to live, work and visit in the UK**