Uned Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information Unit

HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:16/11/2026

2026/1193 - Facial recognition

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

For the period 1 January 2024 to 5 November 2026, please provide existing records held by your force:

1. Whether the force has deployed, piloted, purchased, formally approved or used LFR, RFR or OIFR, directly or via another force or national service. If held, provide the earliest operational date of each, whether currently in use, and the aggregate annual number of deployments/searches and recorded false alerts (do not disclose investigations or individuals).
2. The current published or internal force-level policies and authorisation criteria for each of LFR, RFR and OIFR, including who can authorise use and what documented independent or senior oversight is required.
3. The latest disclosable DPIA, equality impact assessment, human-rights/necessity assessment, algorithmic risk assessment, independent performance or demographic-bias evaluation and relevant review date for each capability. Published links are welcome.
4. The supplier names, system/product names and summary of existing procurement/hosting contracts or collaborative agreements, with award dates, values and which organisation acts as controller, processor or operational decision-maker.
5. Retention and deletion policies for source images, probe images, non-matches and alerts; routes to challenge mistaken identification; and audit or access-log review policies.
6. Any approved 2026–2028 business case, strategy, planned pilot, funding bid or expansion decision already recorded for these technologies, including status, decision-maker role titles and consulted oversight bodies.
7. Existing cost-benefit or operational assessments comparing the above with human-led non-AI policing approaches, including recorded reasons for necessity and proportionality where held.

Additional point specific to your force: Please state whether the force uses any shared regional or national recognition capability even if it does not deploy a standalone local system.

All Live Facial Recognition (LFR) data is publicly available on North Wales Police website:

Live Facial Recognition | North Wales Police

South Wales Police provided the technology, we wouldn't have any recorded information to disclose.

Costs

North Wales Police does not hold the cost per deployment.

Force costs are captured by subjective category such as Police Officer, Police Staff, Overtime, Energy, Fuel, Technology.

Costs are not captured at incident or deployment level unless there is a specific request to capture say overtime and any other associated costs to do with a Major Incident, Mutual Aid, specific job. In such cases this only captures the marginal costs of such incidents such as overtime and would not capture the cost of officer or staff member on normal time.

The data deletion would have been done by South Wales Police (SWP) as they provided the technology, so we wouldn't have any recorded information to disclose.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 09/11/2026