



Dan Price
Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



**Cheshire
Constabulary**

MINUTES OF THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2024 AT CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: Robert Mee (Chair)
Jonathan Bamford
Maggie Chen (via Teams)
Kate Jury
Thomas Morris (via Teams)
Joe Onions
Emma Shillabeer

Also Present: Chief Inspector Zoe Bowden, Head of Forensics
Damon Taylor, Chief Executive, OPCC
Liz Corfield, OPCC

16/24 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 5 September 2024, were NOTED.

17/24 DEVELOPMENT OF FACIAL RECOGNITION

Chief Inspector Bowden, Head of Forensics, gave a presentation on the use of facial recognition in the Constabulary. Retrospective facial recognition was currently only used in Cheshire, as there had not yet been the need to deploy live facial recognition.

There were a number of ways that facial recognition could be undertaken, such as through social media, ring doorbell, CCTV etc, which needed to be assessed for image quality before a decision could be taken as to its use.

It was important to emphasise that all images went through a facial recognition process and were used to maximise the justice for the victims, and that all the necessary safeguards were in place to ensure its appropriate, and legal use. To assist learning across the organisation, information was shared internally, where unsuitable images were shown to educate officers as to what could be used for identification purposes.

The Panel raised a number of questions including the success rate for successful matches and those that go onto 'caught on camera'; the trial of the handheld devices which was featured on Motorway Cops; the length of time it took to produce a positive identification from images; the safeguards in place to ensure image evidence was gathered appropriately; and the risk of AI and manipulated images, to which Chief Inspector Bowden responded.

It was AGREED that if the Constabulary was considering a move to live facial recognition, the Panel would be invited to consider the ethical implications of its use to ensure there were sufficient safeguards underpinning its use. The Panel could

also consider the retention of image samples as part of that further review in due course.

19/24 ITEMS FOR PANEL'S FUTURE CONSIDERATION

These were added to the action matrix below.

18/24 NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were NOTED

ACTIONS MATRIX

Ref.	Action	Action taken
1. [3-23]	To help inform the Panel's work, it would find it helpful to better understand how both organisations (PCC/Constabulary) gain the views of people in Cheshire on policing.	Feedback to be given at future meeting
2. [6-23] & [9-23]	Develop an induction programme for new members of the Panel	Agreed at meeting on 05/09/23 that CEO to provide list of relevant information to aid Panel's wider understanding of policing
3. [6-23]	Provide an update on other training events which the Panel may wish to consider attending in line with their work programme	
4. [9-23]	RCRP post implementation issues to be discussed at a future Panel meeting	
14.[01-24]	Future agenda items discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Worn Video (BWV) • How officers deal with young people (including youth Commission work) • National Stop and Search S60 Report • New members to undertake training already given to RM and ES • Presentation from the Special Constabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLOSED
16.[01-24]	A.I. as a future deployment tool for the Constabulary	
17.[01-24]	Facial Recognition review for new members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLOSED
18.[09-24]	Possible future agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of Ethics Panels as governance in NPCC Covenant. • Tasers – training of and the impact on the officers who use them • PCC's Police and Crime Plan – is there a piece of work for the EP to consult on this? • Future agenda item on Code of Ethics • Use of NICE (retail) 	