

15 June 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 201800945**

**REQUEST**

Regarding facial image data and facial recognition technology:

1. Does the Force have a stored database of facial images?
2. How many images are currently on the database?
3. Please provide statistics on how many of the images appear to be people belonging to black and ethnic minority groups, if known
4. For each of the last three years, please list from where the Force has obtained images (eg. custody images, online sources (please state which companies or websites), intelligence lists, Interpol, etc.) and how many images were obtained from each source
5. Does the Force take stills images from video footage? Which video sources have still images been taken from? (eg. police CCTV, local councils' CCTV, body-worn cameras, privately-owned CCTV). For each of the last three years, how many images were obtained from each video source?
6. For each of the last three years, how many requests have the Force's officers and staff made to search Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram and Twitter for images and/or video footage? (Please give figures for each company) How many of these requests have been granted?
7. For each of the last three years, on how many occasions has the force made requests to Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram and Twitter for images or video? (Please give figures for each company) And how many of the requests were granted?
8. For each source of images, including those taken from video footage and social media, please state how long are the images are stored, and under what circumstances are they deleted
9. For each of the last three years, how many people have requested to have their image(s) removed from the Force's database? How many requests have been granted?
10. Has the force taken biometric data from the images? If so, please list the sources of the images from which biometric data has been taken (eg custody images, CCTV, online sources)
11. Does the force now, has it ever, or is it planning to use technology to match facial images?
12. If so, what technology is/was used, who supplies it, how much does it cost?
13. When attempting to match images, please state from which sources the images were obtained (eg. custody images matched with CCTV, online sources matched with body-worn video, etc)
14. On how many occasions has matching been carried out, and how many images were used?
15. How many arrests and convictions have resulted from the image matching technology?
16. What has been the so-called "false positive" rate? (ie. instances in which the technology matches the images, but they are not in fact the same person)
17. Has the force done any testing around the matching system's ability to handle images of people who appear to belong to black and minority ethnic groups? If so, what testing and what were the outcomes?

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

You have asked a significant number of in-depth questions. In response to question 1 I can advise that SYP does hold custody images of offenders. However in order to answer many of the additional questions you have asked, it would require a manual review trawl through all of our records which would far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)