



Home Office



Law Enforcement Facial Images and New Biometrics Oversight and Advisory Board Terms of Reference

July 2018

Remit

The Board's remit relates to development and use for law enforcement purposes by police forces in England and Wales, and the Home Office and its public bodies, of:

- facial image storing and matching systems
- new biometric modalities, i.e. biometrics other than DNA, fingerprints and facial images, including but not limited to voice, iris, finger vein and gait recognition
- sharing of facial images collected by police forces with other agencies.

The Board has no statutory basis or other legal powers, however the members will encourage police force and the Home Office and its agencies to have regard to its recommendations.

Objectives

The Board's objectives in relation to the areas within its remit are to maximise public protection and operational benefit and build public trust by:

- ensuring that use, including composition of watch lists, conforms with legislation and codes of practice
- use adheres to scientific quality and ethical standards
- ensuring there is a proper evidence base for decisions
- making recommendations to police forces on best practice
- supporting police forces in their transparency with the public
- informing government's consideration of any changes to legislation and regulation that may be required
- considering how lessons learned in the law enforcement domain can be transmitted to the borders and passport domains and vice versa.

Membership

The Chair will be the nominated representative of the National Police Chiefs' Council

The members will be:

- the nominated representative of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
- the nominated representative of the Home Office which has policy responsibility for law enforcement use of facial images.

The non-voting members will be the representatives of:

- The Surveillance Camera Commissioner
- The Information Commissioner
- The Biometrics Commissioner

- The Forensic Science Regulator
- The Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group
- The Home Office directorate responsible for operation of the Police National Database
- The Home Office Biometrics Programme
- The Home Office Science and Technology function (now part of DSTL)
- The Scottish and Northern Irish devolved administrations.

Secretariat will be provided by Home Office.

Operation of Board and role of non-voting members

The agenda of the Board will be published in advance

Full minutes of every meeting of the Board will be taken and published as soon as practicable following the meeting of the Board

Both voting and non-voting members will be able to

- Provide items for the Board's agenda
- Submit papers for consideration

If non-voting members disagree with any recommendation made by the Board, including where a recommendation is put to Ministers, the fact of that disagreement and details of it should be described in full in the published minutes.

The Board will be able to:

- Take evidence in writing or verbally from scientific or technical experts on biometric systems to inform their decisions
- Provide a model, based on rigorous scientific methods, for the carrying out of any trials or experiments about biometric systems
- Receive the results of any trials or experiments on biometric systems carried out by any police force in England & Wales or the Home Office or its agencies

The Board does not affect the role of Commissioners as laid down in statute.

Meetings will take place quarterly. The functioning of the board will be reviewed after 12 months.

