

As per: <https://twitter.com/jamesmullarkey/status/1149285512114507776> where a letter, dated 14 June 2019, from Nick Hurd MP states:

"We know that LFR [live facial recognition] trials are intended to commence to find missing and vulnerable persons, which is a collaboration between the Home Office and police forces (Kent and West Midlands, British Transport Police)."

1) Please advise when and where such trials will occur with West Midlands Police.

West Midlands Police have been approached to contribute to the trial, however no commitment to contribute has been made to date.

Therefore, under FOI there is no recorded information held. However, to assist, if any trials are to be considered the proposal must pass through our internal governance processes which will assess the Ethical, Technical and Operational aspects of the proposal.

2) Please provide any Data Protection Impact Assessment for these trials.

Please see answer to question 1. As previously mentioned, the force is yet to make any commitment towards this trial. DPIAs would form part of the internal governance process any trial would have to pass through before any commitment is made.

3) Please advise when the decision for these trials to go ahead was.

Please see answer to question 1.

4) Please supply documents of any minutes of meetings, emails or any communications with the Home Office or other bodies, i.e. commercial entities (which may involved redaction) or for example the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, Biometric Commissioner, Law Enforcement Facial Images and New Biometric Oversight and Advisory board, etc, involved in these trials.

Please see answer to question 1.

5) Please advise the company who will be supplying the LFR hardware and software.

As part of internal governance processes, the requirements (both software and hardware) would be identified. This would enable the force to make an informed choice on product (soft/hardware) selection if the proposal was successful.

6) Please supply or advise any research or work that has prompted the use of live facial recognition to find "missing and vulnerable persons".

West Midlands Police were approached by the Home Office to contribute towards this trial. Therefore any research which has prompted the trial has been carried out by the Home Office.

In addition to the above, West Midlands Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) – National security

Section 31(3) – Law enforcement