West Midlands Police Freedom of Information

I would like to know the following under the Freedom of Information act relating to your force's use of facial recognition technology.

- When did your police force introduce facial recognition technology? Please provide a month and year.
- How does your police force use facial recognition technology? Please confirm if it is used for any of the following use cases and provide information of any additional use cases: event management, riot policing, to monitor train stations, in airports, to monitor public spaces (please confirm the type of public spaces it is installed in – i.e. shopping mall), body-worn cameras, etc.
- How much money was invested in facial recognition technology over the previous five years.
 Please share the figure broken down by each year for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Does your police force plan to use facial recognition technology in 2020?

West Midlands Police have been approached by the Home Office to see if we would participate in a trial involving Artificial Intelligence/Facial Recognition. Our collaboration would only be considered if the Home Office's trial were to successfully pass through our ethics governance. Equally, governance would confirm the end date of the proposal.

- If your police force plans to use facial recognition technology in 2020, how much money is expected to be spent on the technology and what percentage of the force's technology budget does it represent?
- If your police force does not use facial recognition technology, by the end of which year do you plan to introduce it (i.e. by end of year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 etc.)?

Please see above.