

REQUEST

I write to request information and records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 regarding your force's use of data analysis systems, automated decision-making systems, machine-learning and artificial intelligence.

Specifically, I would like the following information:

Is your force using predictive location or geographic crime or incident mapping systems? If yes,

WMP are currently trialling two predictive crime mapping models for Knife crime (where the knife is used causing injury) and for Serious Violence crimes.

Please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including: The date it started being used;

Knife Crime – Beta testing started Nov 2021
Serious Violence – Beta testing started May 2022
The underlying models have been developed in house.

What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;

The purpose of both systems is to predict for the next 4-week period the likely location and numbers of the relevant offence types.

The predictions are used by the Project Team to support their analysis of where to deploy resources aimed at reducing levels of knife crime and serious violence. These predictions are not targeted at individuals.

What data the system uses and the sources of that data;

The data comes from the CONNECT system and relates only to recorded crimes falling within the relevant definitions.

What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;

The predictions are used to support the analysis of knife crime and serious violence by the Project Team. Their products feed into tasking processes where resourcing decisions are made by senior leaders. The models do not make decisions.

Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;

Please see attached.

Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).

Both projects have been reviewed by the independent Data Ethics Committee which has advised that they can proceed.

Technical papers and minutes can be found here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/ethics-committee/ethics-committee-reports-and-minutes/>

- Serious Violence (MSV) – Nov 2021 (6.1)
- Knife Crime – July 2021 (4)

2. Is your force using individual risk assessment systems which involve data analysis, automated decision-making, machine-learning and/or artificial intelligence?

WMP are currently trialling one statistical model which provides a risk assessment for individual offenders. This is called the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model

If yes, please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including: The date it started being used;

The IOM model started beta testing in Nov 2021.
The underlying model was built in house.

What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;

The IOM model defines harm caused by crime (only for people who have been charged with crimes) and then employs a model to estimate the probability of someone becoming high harm (who haven't as yet reached that level).

What data the system uses and the sources of that data;

The data comes from the CONNECT system and relates only to recorded crimes for people who have been charged.

What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;

The IOM model is for use by Integrated Offender Managers to try and identify people who haven't as yet become high harm to see if they should employ their normal processes (Offender Managers undertake risk assessments of offenders and generally aim to try and steer people away from crime by getting people into drug rehabilitation programmes, job training, etc.). Currently being trialled in 2 Local Offender Management Units.

Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;

Please see attached.

Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).

The project has been reviewed by the independent Data Ethics Committee on a number of occasions. The most recent technical paper and advice can be found here:

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/ethics-committee/ethics-committee-reports-and-minutes/>

3. Is your force using any other predictive, profiling or risk assessment systems, which involve data analysis, automated decision-making, machine-learning and/or artificial intelligence?

No, therefore under FOI there is no specific recorded information held in respect of this question.

If yes, please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including: The date it started being used;

N/A

What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;

N/A

What data the system uses and the sources of that data;

N/A

What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;

N/A

Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;

N/A

Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).

N/A

In addition – Further information can be found via the following links -

[Ethics Committee - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/ethics-committee)

[Ethics Committee Reports and Minutes - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/ethics-committee-reports-and-minutes)

[WMP Data Analytics Lab \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/wmp-data-analytics-lab)