ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

ACPO Cross Business Area Working Group on Facial Imaging

Minutes of the Meeting held on:

2nd April, 2014, 13.00 – 16.00 hours

Executive Conference Room, Durham Police HQ, Aykley Heads

1. ATTENDANCE

Present

CC Mike Barton	Durham Constabulary
Geoff Whitaker	HO CAST
Ambika Suman	HO CAST
Wayne Collins	West York Police - VIPER
Johanna Morley	MPS
Gary Davies	HMPO
Jane Swinburn	Hertfordshire Police
Sean Byron	HO PND
Martin Jebb	CGI
Katherine Mitchinson	Office of the Biometrics Commissioner
Alastair McGregor	Biometrics commissioner
Ian Jakeman	Dorset Police
Neil Akass	DVLA
S23	S23
Mick Carling	HO Crime and Policing Group (CPG)
S23	S23
Alan Gooden	HO ID Security Team

Security Classification
Not protectively marked

Disclosable under FOIA 2000
Yes

Author
Johanna Morley

Force / Organisation
MPS

Date Created
April 4th 2014

Telephone
N/A

There are attachments at paragraphs:

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome by CC Mike Barton (chair) and all attendees introduced themselves. Mr Barton chaired the meeting until 14:30 and then handed over the Chair responsibilities to Johanna Morley.

3. APOLOGIES

DI Andrew Webb	MPS
Shaun Mallinson	CAST
S40	CAST
S40	NSU

4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS

4.1. Previous: Shaun Mallinson was asked to set up a meeting with Mike Barton regarding Policy

Update: None available - carry over

4.2. Previous: CC Mike Barton
To write a letter to Alex Marshall regarding a link into the Colleg of Policing from the ACPO Facial Group
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Update: None available - carry over

4.3. Previous: Shaun Mallinson
To put together a structured workplan for the 4 areas mentioned above: Algorithms/Technlogy, Aptitude and Training, Data Quality and Standards

Update: As Shaun was not able to attend the meeting this specific agenda item was not addressed. However as part of a more general discussion regarding the workplan for the group, Geoff Whitaker suggested that it would be useful to try and map out what we think the facial imaging 'landscape' might look like in 5 – 10 years time (e.g. in terms of business drivers, use cases, search capabilities and data sharing etc). This could then be used to determine the order of work for the proposed sub groups.

Ambika Suman suggested that HO CAST might be able to organise a workshop to scope this out or even run workshops which could also serve the FIS project (IDENT1 and IABS replacement). FIS needs to perform a similar exercise to develop a business case for facial images to be included within the scope of future service. However it needs the ACPO CBA group to provide the mandate and input to the project, articulating the business need, future vision business for face.

The presentations provided by Shaun Mallison, Geoff Whitaker & Ambika Suman at the previous meeting should be circulated to the group and reviewed as part of the process of establishing the way forward, and comments provided back to the authors.

Geoff Whitaker also raised the issue of communications; what types of document might the group want to publish and what would be the best way opf making these available. The group felt that the CBAWG Facial should, where appropriate, provide guidance and documentation on the use of

facial images. POLKA could be used for disimination through police forces but an alternative mechanism will need to be established for other agencies.

5. ACTION LOG

ACTION– Sean Byron
To take the "Bulk Image Submission & Enrollment checklist" *and customise to make fit for purpose for use for facial image submission to PND*

ACTION – Shaun Mallinson
To put together a structured workplan for the 4 areas mentioned above: Algorithms/Technlogy, Aptitude and Training, Data Quality and Standards

ACTION - Johanna Morley
Provide a copy of the legal advice previously given to the Met Police on the use of automated facial recognition searching.

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ACTION - Mike Barton
Request that HOCAST lead on the development of a modular facial comparison course that can be delivered as an e learning package

ACTION - Mike Barton
Request that HOCAST lead on a number of workshops to scope out a roadmap and structured workplan for use of facial images

ACTION –GW and AS
To ensure that the draft reports on 'Face Image Quality' and 'FR Algorithms and Technology' are circulated to the group for comments.

ACTION - All
Review the presentations on Quality, Facial Recognition algorithms and technology and Facial Image Flow chart and provide comments back to Geoff & Ambika and Shaun as appropriate

ACTION - Johanna Morley
Provide briefing note to Mr Barton on overt use of FRS in public places for consideration on the best way to obtain guidance and governance

ACTION – Mike Barton
To write a letter to Alex Marshall regarding a link into the College of Policing from the ACPO Facial Group

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1. DATA QUALITY
No update

6.2. ALGORITHMS & TECHNOLOGY

Facial image search capability is now available to all PND users. Algorithmic search accuracy is still to be formally assessed. This will, by necessity, have to be undertaken on the live system and therefore it is not possible to "seed" the FRS database with ground truth images. HOCAST together with HO PND have agreed a test approach and hope to undertake the evaluation very shortly.

6.3. **APTITUDE & TRAINING**

Johanna Morley reported that those involved in Operation Amberhill at the MPS have requested facial comparison training.

Gary Davies spoke about the requirement for training in facial comparison to an evidential level for HMPO. There was general agreement that training would have to be modular and proportionate to the task. In particular, as facial searches on PND would be used for intelligence or investigative purposes only, the training could be delivered as an "e-learning" package rather than as an attendance course. HMPO have been in discussion with Professor Caroline Wilkinson from the University of Dundee. Prof. Wilkinson provides a 3, 5 or 10 day course in facial comparison and has put forward a £200K proposal for further development of the training. Previous work undertaken by a cross agency working group in conjunction with HOCAST resulted in the development of a number of modules for facial comparison. It was felt that this material should be reviewed and considered as the baseline material for any course. It is suggested that the CBAWG Facial Images should request HOCAST to release this material for review and that HOCASTshould continue to develop the training material in conjunction with the College of Policing.

6.4. **STANDARDS**

No update

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1. Sean Byron - live demonstration of PND facial serch

Sean Byron stated that as of Friday 28th March the PND facial search capabilty was now available to all users. Sean demonstrated a number of live facial recognition searches through PND. There was a discussion on the interface for returned candidates and agreement that there needs to be further development to, for example, allow for side by side comparison of the probe and candidate images.

Mick Carling asked about searech accuracy and what the plans were for testing. Geoff Whitaker explained that a test schedule was being put in place to establish algorithmic accuracy and this will assist with threshold tuning to ensure, as far as possible, that correct matches are returned in the candidate list.

Mr Barton noted that ethnicity can have an impact on search accuracy and that this varies with algorithm. He asked Martin Jebb if CGI would consider this and provide feedback to the group.

Alan Gooden stated that Operation Amberhill, the MPS's proactive identity fraud prevention team, would probably become a national service and that Amberhill images would be added to PND. A Business Case for this was under development.

Ian Jakeman asked how PACE impacted on this, especially if the person doing the searching was also a witness. Mike Barton said that the use of the facial search facility did not form part of the evidence chain and he did not feel this was a real issue.

Mick Carling asked about retention of images of innocent people. Mr Barton explained that (unlike PNC) PND is an intelligence system and is merely a mirror of local force systems and it is the forces' responsibility to ensure the legality of the data they hold and upload to PND.

There was further discussion on how the outcome of facial searching should be used. Mr Barton stated that the intended use is for investigative purposes and not for evidential purposes. Johanna Morley stated that this reflects how the MPS use their FRS capability The legal aspects of facial recognition searching were queried. Johanna Morley agreed to provide the legal advice given to the MPS to the group for consideration.

7.2. Alastair McGregor - Biometrics Commissioner

Alastair introduced the role of the Biometrics Commissioner and the Office of the Biometrics Commissioner. He explained that key functions included dealing with requests to retain data from Chief Constables, National Security aspects and a more general oversight role.   He stated that the role only covered fingerprints and DNA at the moment, but could potentially be extended to include facial images in the future.

He said that the creation of a national custody image database with a search capability (such as that now introduced on PND) should be considered to be a 'game changer' and will inevitably attract attention and discussion regarding the images being held and why.   There are also much wider social and privacy implications for sharing of data and searching against other agency datasets that will need to be considered.

7.3. Geoff Whitaker - FBI visit to the UK

Geoff reported on a recent visit by the FBI and U.S Department of Justice to the UK. They visited various teams within the MPS and HOCAST, and had also had a demonstration of PND. Their visit is a result of a new programme following the Boston Marathon bombings, and they are now looking at the future use of facial image data 'across the enterprise'. Geoff had also arranged for them to meet with a representative from the HOT CDIS project (Collaborative Digital Information Store) as it was clear that both the UK and US had identified similar issues and were pursuing very similar initiatives. The UK solution is envisaged as being a cloud based solution for all forces to upload video that needs to be made available to the CJS for viewing. Johanna Morley commented that any Digital Asset Management store of publically provided assets needs to have additional toolsets to handle deduplication, tagging and ordering by time and location.

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7.4. Johanna Morley - Bulk image submission & Enrolment checklist

Johanna presented the Bulk image submission & Enrolment checklist to the group for discussion. This document was produced by the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FBI lead group) and is based on the experiences of submissions to the CJIS FRS. Sean Bryon felt that this document could form the basis of a document for those submitting to PND.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. Mick Carling - Governance

Mick raised the issue of governance and stated that the Biometric & Forensic Strategy had created a policy group to provide governance over a number of subject specific groups including DNA, fingerprints and facial images.   Geoff mentioned that there was also now a Home Office

Biometrics Programme and it was important to ensure that the proper connections across ALL relevant groups are established.

8.2. Johanna Morley - Governance on overt use of automated facial recognition technology in open places

Johanna raised a query on legislation and governance of the use of overt FRS in open places. There was a wide ranging discussion, but no concensus on whether this required a Directed Surveillance Order, RIPA authority or other. It was agreed that there would be societial impact that needed to be dealt with and engagment with a number of organisations was suggested, including the Information Commissioners Office and the Surveillance Commissioners Office. Ultimately, it was agreed that this was quite new and there is currently no guidance to cover it. It was further agreed that where possible, the CBAWG on Facial Images should seek over-arching guidance on the use of facial images from the relevant authorities, rather than each Force or Agency seeking guidance separately.

8.3. Sean Byron - inclusion of facial images in the PND training database

Sean sought the group's view on the decision not to include the new facial image search capability on the PND training system, on the grounds of cost.   There was general agreement with this and the view that facial comparison training could be provided external to PND on another platform, for example NCALT.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, 3rd October between 12.00 -15.00 at Home Office (Room to be advised)