Sent 12 March 2015

FOIR to the Metropolitan Police re facial recognition capabilities

Under the Freedom of Information Act please can you supply the following information:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/details_of_the_facial_recognitio#outgoing-428280

As per Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe comments on the 9th March 2015: http://www.lbc.co.uk/put-cctv-in-all-homes-uks-top-cop-tells-lbc-106091

"…so over the last year as facial recognition software has got better it means we can apply the software to the images of burglaries or robberies whatever, so we can compare those images with the images we take when we arrest people. So when we arrest people, we arrest about a quarter of million people a year and everybody we arrest we take their fingerprints, their DNA and their photograph and what we need to be able to do is compare that photograph with the images we've got of people who commit crime."

18th June 2015 - Met police response in red here:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/details_of_the_facial_recognitio#incoming-667080

1) Does the Metropolitan Police have a facial recognition system specific to the Metropolitan Police or are the Metropolitan Police using the Police National Database facial recognition system, or both or any other system?

> The MPS has a bespoke facial recognition system called the "Facial Recognition System (FRS)."

2) If the database is specific to the Metropolitan Police please advise how many images are stored on it.

> The MPS FRS stores in excess of 2.9 million images.

3) Please advise the manufacturer/company that supplied of the facial recognition system the Metropolitan Police are using.

> L1 Identity Solutions IBIS Face Examiner (should read ABIS)

4) Does the facial recognition system access the Metropolitan Police database images or are images from Metropolitan Police database transferred to the facial recognition system.

> Images from MPS systems are transferred to the FRS.

5) Are images stored or kept on the facial recognition system that are not from custody images.

> No

6) Please advise if the Metropolitan Police carried out a privacy impact assessment for this facial recognition system and provide a copy.

Privacy impact assessments did not exist as a requirement at the point of going live, therefore this information is not held.

Out of the quarter of a million people the Metropolitan Police arrest every year;
(answer in percentages if easier)

7) Are all images of a quarter of a million people arrested used by the facial recognition system? (If not please advise how many are and reasons)

All frontal images captured by the MPS when an individual is arrested can be transferred and added to the FRS to be searched against.

8) Please advise how many of the quarter of a million people arrested are not found guilty of a crime. Please advise how many images on the database (number and percentage) are of :
a) people arrested but not charged with an offence.
b) people charged with, but not convicted of, an offence.

Not answered due to cost

9) Are these innocent people's images used with the facial recognition database?

Please see the answer to the above question [7]

10) How long are innocent people's images stored before being taken off the Metropolitan Police's facial recognition database or any other databases?

All custody images are kept indefinately unless they are removed under the Early Deletion process.

11) Please advise how and where the facial recognition system is run. i.e. through custody suite images, CCTV, IPTV, body worn cameras, police evidence gatherers, etc.

Access to the FRS is strictly controlled. It is a reactive system, not proactive. Images are uploaded to the system then searches are performed.

12) Can the facial recognition system be run in a real time scenario? For example, a police officer is using a worn video device in public; images are relayed to the facial recognition system and identification of an individual made and conveyed to the police officer or running through CCTV/IPTV cameras to identify persons of interest.

No. As stated above the FRS is a reactive system.

13) Please advise when the Metropolitan Police started using the facial recognition system.

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14) How successful has the facial recognition system been to the Metropolitan Police? I.e. how many facial recognition searches have been done, how many people has it positively identified, of

people positively identified how many of these people have been arrested, how many of those arrested resulted in a criminal conviction.

Not answered due to cost

[End]