



My Ref: FOI 6565
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

I'm seeking information about the council's use of facial recognition and AI video analytics technologies. For the purposes of this request, please use the following definitions:

*** Facial recognition technology (FRT) means any software or system that processes facial images to generate biometric templates for the purpose of identifying, verifying or matching individuals — whether applied in real time to live feeds or retrospectively to recorded footage.**

*** AI video analytics means any software applied to CCTV imagery that automatically detects, classifies, counts, tracks, searches or flags people, vehicles, objects or behaviours. This includes, but is not limited to: person and object detection or classification; people counting and crowd density; loitering, "anti-social behaviour" or aggression detection; intrusion and line-crossing detection; abandoned-object detection; fly-tipping detection; weapon detection; appearance or attribute search (e.g. searching footage by clothing colour); vehicle make, model or colour recognition; automatic number plate recognition (ANPR); and video summarisation or forensic search tools such as BriefCam or Fusus or equivalent. Please report ANPR separately from other analytics.**

Questions

- 1. The total number of cameras in the council's CCTV estate whose feeds can be processed using FRT in real-time.**

There are approximately 180 cameras in the council's CCTV estate with feeds which *can* be processed using FRT in real-time.

- 2. The total number of cameras in the council's CCTV estate whose feeds can be processed using AI video analytics in real-time. Please provide a breakdown of analytical functions if available and, as requested above, report ANPR cameras separately from other types of analytics.**

As Q1. The platform cameras feed into has capability to support features such as:

- Person and vehicle detection
- Facial recognition
- ANPR integration

- Object and intrusion detection
- Intelligent video search and event analytics

3. The total number of cameras in the council's CCTV estate whose feeds can be processed using FRT retrospectively.

As Q1

4. The total number of cameras in the council's CCTV estate whose feeds can be processed using AI video analytics retrospectively. Please provide a breakdown of analytical functions if available and, as requested above, report ANPR cameras separately from other types of analytics.

As Q2

5. For each FRT or AI video analytics system covered by questions 1 to 4: the name of the supplier; the name of the product or system; the contract start and end dates and total contract value.

This information is exempt under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime.

Providing details about the systems used would release detailed information that could be used in a cyber-attack, which are an ever-increasing threat to public authorities, thus prejudicing the prevention of crime.

Releasing this information would allow potential attackers to understand how the Council is using CCTV and areas of weakness that may be exposed, by the levels of detail requested.

As the exemption is subject to the public interest test we have considered this accordingly. Whilst we recognise there is significant interest in this information, specifically around CCTV, AI and its use cases, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the above exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The Council believes that in this case the greater public interest lies in withholding the information in order to protect the integrity of the Council's IT infrastructure.

6. Any Data Protection Impact Assessment(s) prepared in relation to the council's use of FRT or AI video analytics. If no DPIA is held, please confirm this.

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No specific DPIA has been completed to assess the use of FRT or AI video analytics. The features are not activated for the majority and as such it is not deemed necessary to complete a DPIA. If the features were intended to be activated a DPIA would be completed accordingly.

A limited number of traffic cameras utilise AI video analytics in real time but the footage captured is not deemed to be of high enough quality to include personal, identifiable, information.

- 7. Any document held by the council that assesses or reports on the accuracy, error rate, false match rate or differential performance by ethnicity, sex or age of any FRT or AI video analytics system referred to above. This includes documentation produced by the council, by the supplier (including product documentation, technical specifications and marketing material making performance claims), or by any third party. If no such document is held, please confirm this.**

The Council does not hold this information.

- 8. Any policy, standard operating procedure, operational guidance or staff training material governing the council's use of FRT or AI video analytics, including provisions on retention, human review of automated outputs, watchlist compilation, and audit.**

No specific policy exists.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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