



Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR) System

Wider Force Interim Policy (Phase 2)

1. Introduction, Aim & Scope

Introduction

Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR) is used by Staffordshire Police Service as an [REDACTED] to help officers establish who a person is or whether their image matches against other images held by policing in order to help progress investigations and operations. It helps officers work more efficiently and effectively to keep Staffordshire safe. It is currently being used under Phase 1 for [REDACTED]

- 1.2. This policy provides direction to use, using and approving the use of RFR and explains the standard operating procedures which apply to the use of the RFR System. Compliance with the Policy will help ensure a consistent approach to the use of this policing tool across the Force.

Aim & Scope

- 1.3. This policy aims to: -
- a) provide Police personnel with information about the present strategic, operational and technology objectives for the use of RFR under Phase 2 such that it enables Staffordshire Police to achieve its law enforcement purposes; and

- b) provide Staffordshire Police personnel with direction as to the images used for RFR searches and the considerations and safeguards which apply to their use; and
- c) establish the governance structure for the use of RFR under Phase 2, ensuring that Staffordshire Polices' use of RFR is appropriately governed and legally compliant.

1.4. This Policy is structured as follows: -

- a) Part A: What images can be used for RFR Searching?
- b) Part B: How should an RFR Search be undertaken?
- c) Part C: Governance and oversight arrangements.

1.5. This Policy relates only to the use of Staffordshire Polices' RFR System. Facial recognition technologies have a number of potential applications within a law enforcement context.

Strategic Objectives

1.6. Staffordshire Police will: -

- a) use RFR technology in a responsible way to help officers efficiently and effectively establish who a person is or whether their image matches against other images held by policing in order to help progress investigations and operations in accordance with statutory and common law policing powers; and
- b) strengthen and develop RFR technology capability to protect the public, reduce serious crime, to help safeguard vulnerable persons, to uphold professional standards and to keep Staffordshire safe for everyone; and
- c) build public trust and confidence in the development, management and use of RFR by taking account of privacy and performance considerations whilst maximising transparency without unduly compromising investigations; and
- d) maintain good governance, with clear decision making and accountability; and
- e) ensure that RFR is used in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, and that it meets the oversight and regulatory framework; and

- f) transparently identify, manage and mitigate reputational and organisational risk; and
- g) be recognised as a responsible, exemplary and ethical organisation.

Operational Objectives

1.7. Staffordshire Police will: -

- a) use RFR technology to deliver faster resolutions through the efficient use of imagery to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - this technology can avert the need for consuming manual reviews of extensive imagery or the use of other (potentially more intrusive) tactics which might otherwise be necessitated to generate a lead; and
- b) use RFR technology to deliver more successful resolutions through the effective searching of imagery in order [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – this technology can [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for further analysis which might otherwise not have been made.

Technological Objectives

1.8. Staffordshire Police will: -

- a) ensure all RFR technology during this pilot is fit-for-purpose and used in line with strategic intentions and operational objectives; and
- b) provide ongoing technical oversight and evaluation into the effectiveness of the technology as a [REDACTED]

Use Case

1.9 This Policy relates to the use of RFR as an [REDACTED] to assist officers establish who a person is or whether their image matches against other images held by policing in order to help progress investigations and operations. RFR does not provide a further means to acquire images but to better use the images already held by policing in line with the Privacy Policy. As articulated in this Policy, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Instead, it is a precise policing tool that can be used to help officers [REDACTED] to establish who a person is or whether their image matches against other imagery held by policing.

As such, the RFR system [REDACTED] but helps officers work more efficiently and effectively to keep Staffordshire safe. Non-exhaustive examples of how RFR technology may do this include:

- a) To aid investigations by providing a lead as to the potential identity of a subject, confirming where a subject appears within a set of imagery, and/or,
- b) [REDACTED]

The RFR system currently in use also has a feature to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] However, during the trial period this will only be utilised for phase 1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This enables the software to identify multiple images of persons and provide scored identities periodically during the footage. This removes the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Technical Operation of RFR for Phase 2

1.9. The technical operation of RFR can be summarised as follows in relation to a typical search of a [REDACTED]

Facial Image Acquisition Request – Completed by OIC	
1	RFR can utilise both moving footage and still images. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Images will need to be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
2	[REDACTED] to be completed by the OIC requesting the search and sent [REDACTED]

	will make clear reference to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Please refer to [REDACTED] Of note, this is not [REDACTED] If your enquiry is urgent and there is no [REDACTED] you will need to go [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
	Enrolment and Detection – [REDACTED]
3	The image will be copied from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
	Retention, Dissemination and Disclosure
4	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] The shared search results [REDACTED]
5	Where a viable indication has been made, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Any dissemination should be accompanied with the following standard caveats and information: <i>This type of identification has come from a Facial Recognition Search (FRS) the FR Operator [REDACTED]</i> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

2. Grounds for the RFR Search

2.1. [REDACTED] that may be deemed appropriate for RFR Searching comprise of those people who are: -

- Persons suspected of having committed or being about to commit a criminal offence.
- Children or vulnerable individuals (if they fit one of the other criteria and appear to be over the age of criminal responsibility if suspected of committing a criminal offence).
- Other [REDACTED]

3. Retention of Data

3.1. Staffordshire Police must ensure that the processing of any data by the RFR system is conducted in a lawful way and in compliance with the RFR Documents and Policy. This means that all [REDACTED]