

Milly Southworth

From: Phoebe Davis <PhoebeD@libertyhumanrights.org.uk>
Sent: 07 October 2026 13:48
To: Phoebe Davis
Subject: Freedom of Information Request: CCTV System AI/Facial Recognition Capabilities

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I understand that your authority has recently received funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall (OPCC) for the installation, upgrade or expansion of CCTV systems.

Please provide the following information regarding any CCTV systems that have been funded in whole or in part through the OPCC funding or existing council budgets.

1. CCTV Equipment and Suppliers

For each CCTV project funded by the OPCC, please provide:

- a) The manufacturer and supplier of the equipment.
- b) The make and model of the cameras
- c) The number of cameras installed (or due to be installed)
- d) The location of the cameras. If precise location is not possible to provide, could you please provide me with a location area for the cameras. For example, "town centre", "public car park" or "housing estate."

2. Artificial Intelligence and Video Analytics

For the purposes of this request, "AI" includes any machine learning, automated detection, automated classification, behavioural analysis, object recognition or video analytics functionality.

a) Whether any CCTV cameras, recorders, cloud services, video management systems or associated software include AI, machine learning or automated analytics capabilities.

b) For each capability, please state whether it is:

- Currently enabled and in operational use;
- Installed but disabled;
- Available under licence or subscription but not currently in use.

c) Please provide details of any analytical functions available, including but not limited to:

- Intrusion or perimeter detection;
- Object detection, classification or tracking;
- Vehicle detection, identification or tracking;
- Face detection;
- Facial recognition;
- Crowd monitoring;
- Behavioural or suspicious activity detection;
- Loitering detection;
- Weapon detection;
- Emotion or mood recognition;
- Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR);
- Advanced forensic or video search tools such as age, gender or clothing-based search.

Please also include any additional analytics or automated decision-support features not listed above.

3. Facial Recognition

Please confirm:

- a) Whether any camera, recorder, software platform, cloud service or associated CCTV system used by the council has facial recognition functionality.
- b) Whether facial recognition is currently enabled.
- c) The number of cameras associated with systems that possess facial recognition or biometric identification capability.
- d) Whether any watchlists, alerting systems or matching databases are used.

4. Purpose and consultation

If the council is using cameras equipped with AI functionality:

- 1. Please provide the stated purpose(s) of these cameras (for instance, anti-social behaviour prevention, fly-tipping)
- 2. Please tell me whether any public consultation was carried out regarding the use of AI CCTV, and any details or documentation around this consultation.

5. Data Protection and Governance

Please provide copies of:

- a) Any policies, procedures, governance documents, equality impact assessments, data protection impact assessments or ethical reviews relating to the use of AI, analytics, or facial recognition within the CCTV system.

6. Collaboration with Police

Please confirm:

- a) Whether Devon & Cornwall Police or any other law enforcement body has direct or indirect access to the CCTV system, including any sharing arrangements between the police and the council.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit, please provide the information that can be supplied within the limit and advise what elements may be refined.

I would prefer to receive the information by email.

Yours sincerely,

PHOEBE DAVIS

Investigative journalist

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Pronouns: she/her

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