

Reference: IR-01-22-20768

29 July 2022

Will Maynard

Via fyi-request-19939-42498391@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Will

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 17 July 2022, in which you asked for information regarding facial recognition technology.

My response to each of your questions can be found below.

Is NZ police using any facial recognition anywhere?

Yes, Police does use facial recognition technology, but not live facial recognition technology. A detailed list of New Zealand Police Technology capabilities can be found on the Police web site here - [Technology capabilities list](#). The tools containing our facial recognition capability are covered in that document on the following pages:

- ABIS2 (page 25)
- BriefCam (page 28)
- Celebrite Pathfinder (page 30)
- Griffeye Analysis Core (page 32)
- Image Management System – Photo Manager (page 34)

Furthermore, in 2021, Police commissioned an independent report into considerations for use of facial recognition in Policing and that report is published in full here: [Facial recognition technology | Police use of emergent technologies | New Zealand Police](#)

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Is NZ police aware of any upcoming plans to trial or introduce permanent facial recognition like Australia, England etc?

I have taken this question to mean 'Is New Zealand police aware of any upcoming plans for New Zealand Police to trial or introduce 'live' facial recognition' AND 'Is New Zealand police aware of any upcoming plans within New Zealand to trial or introduce 'live' facial recognition on permanent cameras'

Police does not use any form of 'live' facial recognition technology such as real-time scanning of CCTV feeds and there are no current plans or proposals to do so. See page 29 of the [Technology capabilities list](#) for more information on CCTV feeds.

The ABIS2 facial recognition system currently in use enables Police to compare still images of unidentified suspects, where those images have been submitted as part of an investigation. It is not used in the analysis of any livestream or live surveillance footage, and live footage cannot feed directly into the system.

The other tools listed above are also only used to analyse photos and videos submitted as part of an investigation after the photos/videos have been captured.

Police is aware (from information in the public domain) of retail sector use of live FRT use in New Zealand – see section 3.6 of the 2021 report [FRT- Considerations for Use in Policing](#).

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. Therefore, an anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the Police website.

Nāku noa, nā

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