

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough AI Scrutiny Panel – Terms of Reference

Version	Date	Signed Off
V1.0	13 May 2026	21 October 2026

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The AI Scrutiny Panel (the “Panel”) is established to provide **independent, multidisciplinary ethical scrutiny and advice** on the operational use of artificial intelligence (AI) within Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”).
- 1.2 The Panel is **convened and facilitated by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)** and operates as an advisory body to support:
 - Ethical, lawful and proportionate use of AI
 - Public confidence and transparency
 - Robust governance and accountability
- 1.3 In line with national guidance¹, the Panel provides **independent scrutiny but does not hold decision-making authority**, which remains with the Chief Constable.

¹ [Governance | College of Policing](#)

2. Scope

- 2.1. The Constabulary and OPCC can refer themes for scrutiny to the Panel Chair for consideration.
- 2.2. The Panel will consider the use of AI-enabled tools and systems including (but not limited to):
 - Live Facial Recognition (LFR) and other biometric technologies
 - Predictive analytics and risk modelling tools
 - Automated decision-support systems
 - Data-driven policing tools involving algorithmic processing
- 2.3. The Panel will review deployments and the outcomes of such deployments considering themes such as (but not limited to):
 - Effectiveness
 - Error rates and bias
 - Community impact
 - Complaints or concerns
 - Ongoing necessity and proportionality
 - Human rights and civil liberties impacts
 - Transparency and explainability
 - Human oversight and accountability

3. Principles

The Panel will operate in accordance with the following principles:

3.1. Legality and Compliance

Providing independent scrutiny, support and constructive challenge to assist the Constabulary in maintaining alignment with:

- Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality legislation
- Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2022

- College of Policing guidance²

and other applicable legislation, regulatory requirements and professional standards.

3.2. Necessity and Proportionality

In conducting its scrutiny, the Panel will consider whether the use of AI is:

- Necessary for a legitimate policing aim
- Intelligence-led and targeted
- Considered alongside less intrusive alternatives
- Proportionate to the intended outcome

3.3. Ethics and Fairness

- Consideration of bias, discrimination, and equality impacts
- Scrutiny of impacts on vulnerable individuals and communities

3.4. Transparency and Accountability

- Clear documentation of decisions, advice, and actions
- Appropriate public transparency and engagement

3.5. Independence

- Independent chairing and balanced membership
- Separation from operational decision-making and delivery which remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable

4. Role and Functions

4.1. The role of the Panel is to:

- Assess ethical implications, including unintended consequences of the use of AI
- Provide independent, evidence-based advice to the Constabulary via the OPCC and highlight ethical risks and other associated concerns
- Provide feedback to governance boards via the OPCC
- Review the accuracy and effectiveness of AI use

² [Governance | College of Policing](#)

- Review community impact
- Consider compliance with policy and law

- 4.2. The Constabulary are expected to consider suggested actions and recommendations made by the Panel and provide a response where appropriate (whilst recognising that the Constabulary is under no obligation to implement these).
- 4.3. The Constabulary will prepare and present agreed material for scrutiny purposes e.g. data reports and examples of AI deployment.
- 4.4. The Constabulary will work alongside the OPCC to support efficiency and effectiveness of the meetings.

5. Membership

5.1. Composition

The Panel will comprise of individuals with a diverse range of skills, expertise, professional experience and lived experience, which may include individuals with backgrounds in:

- OPCC representative (secretariat and facilitator)
- Academia (e.g. law, computer science, AI ethics)
- Information security / cyber specialists
- Safeguarding and public protection professionals
- Individuals with policing backgrounds
- Independent/community representatives reflecting local diversity

This reflects national guidance for **multidisciplinary, representative membership**.

- 5.2. Panel membership is entirely voluntary and unpaid. Members will not receive remuneration for their participation. Should face-to-face meetings be required, reasonable travel and subsistence expenses may be claimed in accordance with the OPCC's expenses policy.

- 5.3. The OPCC will oversee the resolution of any conflicts involving Panel members and has the discretion to terminate Panel membership where necessary, including the position of Chairperson.
- 5.4. Panel members are not permitted to also be members on the Constabulary's AI and/Ethics Panel.
- 5.5. Chair
- The Panel will be **independently chaired**
- 5.6. Appointment
- Members will be appointed through an open and transparent process
 - Terms will normally be **2–3 years** and are renewable for a total of 2 terms.
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) statutory functions are currently expected to transfer to the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in May 2028. While the future arrangements for the Panel beyond this date have not been confirmed, the Panel will continue to operate and fulfil its responsibilities as usual in the meantime.

6. Governance and Reporting

- 6.1 The Panel reports to the **OPCC**, which is responsible for facilitation and oversight. The OPCC will share all feedback with the Constabulary via the Change and Evidence Board. The OPCC have attendance at this Board and can capture responses to any feedback for sharing back to the Panel.

7. Operation of the Panel

- 7.1. Meetings will be held quarterly. Where circumstances require, the OPCC and/or Constabulary may request that an extraordinary meeting of the Panel is convened to consider urgent, sensitive or higher-risk deployments or matters requiring timely scrutiny.

- 7.2. The timescale for convening any extraordinary meeting will be determined by the nature and urgency of the issue under consideration.
- 7.3. Where it is not possible to meet the standard quorum requirements within the required timeframe, the Chair will be consulted and may, at their discretion, agree alternative arrangements to enable the Panel to undertake timely scrutiny whilst maintaining appropriate independence and oversight.
- 7.4. Meetings will be held online via MS Teams
- 7.5. To be quorate a minimum of 3 members must be in attendance, including: Chair (or deputy), at least one technical representative and one legal/ethics representative. Where quorate is not met the meeting will not run.
- 7.6. Members are expected to declare conflicts of interest and sign Confidentiality Agreements
- 7.7. Confidential/non-public documentation may be reviewed by members for the purposes of Panel scrutiny, but must not be used for personal gain or disclosed outside the Panel except as formally published.
- 7.8. Panel members may be provided with redacted relevant documentation (e.g. DPIAs, EIAs, operational summaries) to enable robust ethical scrutiny. Panel members shall retain documents and information provided to them only for so long as is reasonably necessary to support the work of the Panel. Such documents and information are confidential and must be securely deleted when no longer required, at the direction of the Panel, or in any event no later than the expiry of the member's term of appointment.

8. Transparency

- 8.1 The existence, purpose, and membership of the Panel will be publicly available and summaries of advice and outcomes will be published on the PCC's website.

9. Review

9.1. The OPCC are responsible for this Terms of Reference. It will be reviewed by the OPCC **annually** or in response to:

- Legislative changes
- Significant technological developments
- Lessons learned from deployments

9.2. A short effectiveness review will be conducted following each Panel meeting to assess effectiveness, identify learning, and inform any improvements for future meetings.

10. Status

10.1 The Panel is:

- **Advisory (non-decision-making)**
- Independent in its scrutiny
- A key component of the wider governance framework for AI use