

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall OBE AM

Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee
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Our ref: MGLA070218-3167**Date:** 05 MAR 2018**Re: use of personal data by GLA Group**

Thank you for your letter of 7 February.

In your letter you referred to the importance of maintaining public confidence in the use of technology to tackle crime and highlight the trial use of facial recognition technology by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). You previously also raised the issue of regulation and appropriate oversight of the technology.

I have been assured that the MPS has previously engaged with officers of both the Information Commissioner and the Surveillance and Biometrics Commissioner, briefing them on the purpose and parameters of the trial use of facial recognition technology. Civil liberties groups Big Brother Watch and Liberty have also been engaged and were invited to observe the operational use of the trial system.

My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has used the MPS Oversight Board to ensure that the MPS continues to take actions designed to address any concerns and report the results to MOPAC. Actions include the conduct of impact assessments, the evaluation of past deployments and preparation for future trials. The MPS will be able to address potential sensitivities in the ongoing work with facial recognition. Senior MPS officers would be very happy to brief you and other Assembly Members on their work.

I am also satisfied that the MPS is working hard to deliver an engagement strategy for future use of facial recognition technology, and I have been assured that a governance board will be established to directly oversee this work. However, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and I will continue to work with the MPS on this technology as the trials progress.

Dr Suzanne Shale, Chair of the London Policing Ethics Panel, has confirmed to me that the Panel will look at digital policing within the MPS as part of its 2017-18 work plan. The panel's view is that digital technologies facilitate higher degrees of surveillance and more extensive data searching capabilities and that these have the scope to affect policing by consent. They plan to use facial recognition as a 'worked example', and I look forward to receiving updates on their work as it progresses.

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I am also confident that the MPS is making significant preparations more generally for the changes to the Data Protection legislation that arise from the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Law Enforcement Directive (LED), both being introduced in May 2018.

Thank you again for your letter on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London