



Dan Price
Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



**Cheshire
Constabulary**

MINUTES OF THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: Robert Mee (Chair)
Jonathan Bamford
Maggie Chen (online)
Amanda Hogarty
Kate Jury
Thomas Morris

Apologies: Mike Calloway
Emma Shillabeer

Also present: Damon Taylor, Chief Executive, OPCC
Jen Seed, Digital Media & Web Manager, OPCC

For Minutes 1-3 only:

Det Sgt Dave Thomason, HRU
Gabriele Pergola, University of Warwick
Arshad Jhunka, University of Leeds

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Members of the Panel introduced themselves including Amanda Hogarty, who was attending her first meeting of the Panel following her appointment earlier in the month.

2. Notes of Previous Meeting Held on 14th May 2026

The notes of the meeting held on 14th May 2026 and it was noted that the AI Enablement Team would attend the Panel meeting in December to provide an update on their work.

3. Stalking threat AI recognition and identification support tool

Sergeant Dave Thomason presented the final report of the AI recognition and identification support tool project, assisted by colleagues from the Universities of Warwick and Leeds.

The presentation covered issues such as the possibility of scaling up its use across policing in the UK, through the newly created body 'Police AI'; local management of the project had now been handed over to the AI Enablement Team; and work was now looking at how the project could move 'out of the lab'

and into the real world, with all the risks and potential dangers that could pose. The trial had shown an 80% accuracy with the tool and those developing it had felt this to be a significant success.

The Panel raised a number of questions including why the project had evolved in Cheshire; whether those reporting such crimes online would recognise that they were indeed victims of stalking; how the accuracy score improves as more data is input; how pre-offending could help feed the model; how it could be linked into other force systems such as Niche; and whether the system could be used as an evidential tool for court. It was made clear that the tool would only be used as a guidance tool for those investigating such crimes and at this stage there was no anticipation that this would be used in anyway as an evidential tool.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Panel asked what would the next steps be, and given the role of the Panel, what were the ethical issues that would need to be further examined? It was clear that any use of live data would present risks as well as any time that the tool would start to link in with other systems. The Panel added that they would expect to be involved if there were ever any plans to utilise the tool in a live trial. It was also suggested that the Panel had a role in communicating with the public and external stakeholders how the police use of AI was being reviewed and the OPCC comms team agreed to take this away to consider.

4. Live Facial Recognition

A report had been submitted for the Panel's information following a discussion at a previous meeting about the introduction of the use of live facial recognition.

In particular, the Panel was interested to know whether the Constabulary was pleased with its experience of using it to date, whether the resources put around it was worth the outcomes and who would be included on the watchlist? The Chief Executive undertook to raise these questions with the Constabulary and report back to the Panel.

5. Panel membership Update

The Chief Executive presented a report which set out the membership of the Panel, now that four new members had been appointed, two of whom were still awaiting vetting clearance.

The Panel also discussed issues that new members may benefit from receiving more information on, which included a glossary of policing acronyms; whether someone could speak to a future meeting on the code of ethics; receive an

input from the PCC on how he saw the Panel inputting into his work; and the circulation of both a Constabulary organigram and up-to-date Governance Framework.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10th December 2026

ACTIONS MATRIX

Ref.	Action	Action taken
1. [3-23]	To help inform the Panel's work, it would find it helpful to better understand how both organisations (PCC/Constabulary) gain the views of people in Cheshire on policing.	Feedback to be given at future meeting
2. [6-23] & [9-23]	Develop an induction programme for new members of the Panel	Agreed at meeting on 05/09/23 that CEO to provide list of relevant information to aid Panel's wider understanding of policing
3. [6-23]	Provide an update on other training events which the Panel may wish to consider attending in line with their work programme	
4. [9-23]	RCRP post implementation issues to be discussed at a future Panel meeting	• CLOSED
14.[01-24]	Future agenda items discussed. • Body Worn Video (BWV) • How officers deal with young people (including youth Commission work) • National Stop and Search S60 Report	• CLOSED

	• New members to undertake training already given to RM and ES • Presentation from the Special Constabulary	• CLOSED
16.[01-24]	A.I. as a future deployment tool for the Constabulary - Presentation on the AI enablement project given on 14/05/26	Further update in December 2026
17.[01-24]	Facial Recognition review for new members	• CLOSED
18.[09-24]	Possible future agenda items: • The role of Ethics Panels as governance in NPCC Covenant. • Tasers – training of and the impact on the officers who use them • PCC's Police and Crime Plan – is there a piece of work for the EP to consult on this? • Future agenda item on Code of Ethics • Use of NICE (retail) • Live Facial Recognition update	• CLOSED • CLOSED • CLOSED
19. [04-25]	Find out more about Regional Ethics Committee	
20. [05-25]	Panel to be invited to the Youth Commission's annual conference	• CLOSED
21. [05-25]	Panel to receive an update on the AI Stalking Project (update given September 2026)	• CLOSED
22 [12-25]	Consider recruitment of new Panel members	• CLOSED