



Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Fact Sheet

Leicestershire Police own and manage a number of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in and around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Not all cameras that you see at the side of the road are ANPR cameras. Other equipment could be part of the Traffic Master system or be equipment that belongs to the Local Authority that monitors traffic flow for example.

ANPR cameras have been deployed at key locations to disrupt, deter and detect terrorist offences, serious, organised and major crime, and local crime such as burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. Feedback received suggests that they also increase community confidence and provide reassurance. The force also operates a fleet of police vehicles some of which also contain ANPR equipment. ANPR works by taking a photograph of a vehicle as it drives by the camera. The vehicle registration number is then compared to the ANPR data base. For example if a vehicle is reported stolen and drives by an ANPR camera, police staff will know within seconds that has happened and will try to intercept it if resources are available. ANPR is NOT used to track people who are not wearing seat belts, using a mobile phone nor are they speed cameras. You will not receive any traffic related tickets as a result of ANPR. Leicestershire Police do not use facial recognition software with their ANPR cameras. Images taken of vehicles is secure and transferred to a police database. Access to that database of information, is after police staff have been vetted and passed a training course. Even then, authority levels are based on need as opposed to right. For example a detective working in a department that investigates burglaries might have better user access than an officer who works on a beat. In line with national standards Leicestershire Police retain ANPR data for 12 months. There are occasions when it can be held for longer, for example for a criminal investigation and the officer in the case specifically requests certain data to be kept until the investigation is concluded.

Every ANPR search conducted needs to be justified and proven that the search is proportionate, legal and necessary and in line with why the cameras were deployed in the first place. Misuse of the rules by staff is a very serious issue and can lead to discipline and criminal offences being committed. User audits are also conducted to ensure a person's user access is still required.

Consultation with the public and communities is done on a regular basis. The last major ANPR survey was completed in the summer of 2019 when over 4000 people took part. The findings were gratefully received but overwhelmingly the public were in support of ANPR use by the police. We will be looking to conduct some ANPR related consultation in the near future but in the meantime should you wish to contact Leicestershire Police about ANPR please address your enquiry to the ANPR





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Manager. The ANPR Manager is the person who provides governance around how ANPR used in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Likewise if you wish to make a complaint about ANPR please go to the Leicestershire Police website – www.leics.police.uk - and search for 'Making a Complaint' and head the complaint as "ANPR".



leics.police.uk



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