

Why we use ANPR

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology is used within Humberside Police to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality at a local, force, regional and national level, including tackling travelling criminals, Organised Crime Groups and terrorists. ANPR provides lines of enquiry and evidence in the investigation of crime and is used by forces throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

How it works

As a vehicle passes an ANPR camera, its registration number is read and instantly checked against database records of vehicles of interest. Police officers can intercept and stop a vehicle, check it for evidence and, where necessary, make arrests. The use of ANPR in this way has proved to be important in the detection of many offences, including locating stolen vehicles, tackling uninsured vehicle use and uncovering cases of major crime. It also allows officers' attention to be drawn to offending vehicles whilst allowing law abiding drivers to go about their business unhindered.

Access to stored data

ANPR data from Humberside Police is submitted to the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) where it is stored together with similar data from other forces for a period of two years.

We have clear rules to control access to ANPR derived data to ensure that access is for legitimate investigation purposes. Staff can only access to ANPR data if it is relevant to their role, and the majority of those who have permission to access ANPR data may only do so for a maximum period of 90 days from the date it was collected.

Some staff are authorised to access data for up to 2 years subject to authorisation of a Senior Officer and only in certain circumstances. After 90 days, access may only be for the investigation of serious incidents, serious crime or counter terrorism investigations. After 12 months access is only permitted for major investigations and counter terrorism purposes.

Searches of ANPR data can confirm whether a vehicle associated with a known criminal has been in the area at the time of a crime and this can dramatically speed up investigations. Equally, it helps to eliminate vehicles and persons from enquiries that were simply being used for lawful purposes thus avoiding unnecessary intrusion into the activities of the general public, saving investigation time and reducing the cost of delivering policing.

Camera locations

In addition to being mounted within police vehicles, ANPR cameras within Humberside Police are used at fixed and temporary locations where they will help to detect, deter and disrupt criminality. In line with national policy, we do not disclose details of our fixed locations as this information is likely to be of benefit to offenders and if known could reduce the value of ANPR to policing.

National guidelines state that, if Humberside Police proposes to install additional ANPR cameras, an assessment must be conducted that demonstrates a clear need, taking account of the following factors:

National security and counter terrorism

Serious, organised and major crime;

Local crime;

Community confidence and reassurance, and the prevention and reduction of crime.

In assessing whether new cameras are to be deployed, a Privacy Impact Assessment will be undertaken. We will consult with persons and organisations with a reasonable interest in the proposal unless that would be contrary to the purpose of the deployment, namely to detect, deter and disrupt criminality.

Humberside Police is committed to conducting a regularly review the location of ANPR cameras, in the context of the above criteria, to make sure that the continued deployment remains justified. All reviews will include consideration of the impacts on privacy.

Code of Practice and National Standards

The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice defines guiding principles for the use of ANPR which are applicable to police systems. In addition National ANPR Standards for Policing (NASP) also provide the framework for the operation of ANPR by the police and other law enforcement agencies. Copies of these documents are available at:

www.npcc.police.uk/anpr

Further information

The Chief Constable is the data controller for the ANPR system operated within Humberside Police.