

30 August 2023

IC-248480-L9W5

Request

We received your request on 31 July. You asked for the following information:

"I read this story about the Home Office, Facewatch and facial recognition. The story references a letter sent (or planned to be sent) from the Home Office to the ICO. Can you say if you ever received such a letter, and if so, what it said and how you responded, please?"

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA). As you are probably aware, this legislation provides public access to recorded information held by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Our response

We do not hold any information within the scope of your request. The ICO has not received a formal letter from the Home Office about Facewatch as the press coverage indicated may happen.

By way of advice and assistance, some informal discussions have taken place between the ICO and the Home Office about Facewatch through the course of our regular engagement with them and we have disclosed, as far as we're able to, copies of the relevant correspondence in response to recent FOI request. Our response to that request is due to be uploaded to our [disclosure log](#) shortly under the reference IC-248456-K5K5, we suggest you check our website over the next few days to view the information that we have disclosed.

FOI review procedure

If you are dissatisfied and wish to request a review of our decision or make a

complaint about how your request has been handled you should write to the Information Access Team at the address below or e-mail icoaccessinformation@ico.org.uk.

Your request for internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the discretion of the Commissioner.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to this office in our capacity as the statutory complaint handler under the legislation.

To make such an application, please write to our Customer Contact Team at the address given or visit our website if you wish to make a complaint under the FOIA.

Your information

Please note that our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us and what your rights are.

This includes entries regarding the specific purpose and legal basis for the ICO processing information that people that have provided us with, such as an [information requester](#).

The length of time we keep information is laid out in our retention schedule, which can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



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