

30 September 2024

Case Reference IC-329373-L4S8

Request

Please provide your response to parliament as described in <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2023/12/ico-statement-in-response-to-parliamentarians-letter-on-facial-recognition-technology/>

We received your request on 2 September 2024.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

We do not hold a formal response from the ICO to Parliament in response to the Parliamentarian's letter on facial recognition technology.

We can advise that a meeting took place on 26 February 2024 between the ICO and Parliamentarians to discuss the letter. Following this meeting, it was decided that a formal response from the Information Commissioner was not required.

Please find attached a PDF file containing a note of the meeting on 26 February 2024.

You will see that some third-party personal data has been redacted as this is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

Section 40(2) of the FOIA exempts information if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation.

The condition at section 40(3A)(a) applies in this instance: that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles. The principles are outlined in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) with the relevant principle on this occasion being the first principle as provided by Article 5(1): that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.

We do not consider that disclosing this information into the public domain is necessary or justified. There is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the relevant data subjects. We have therefore taken the decision that disclosing this information would be unlawful, triggering the exemption at section 40(2) of the FOIA.

This concludes our response.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely