**Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**

**Why we use ANPR?**

Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology is used within South Wales to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality at a local, force, regional and national level, including tackling traveling criminals, Organised Crime Groups and terrorists. ANPR provides lines of enquiry and evidence in the investigation of crime and is used by law enforcement agencies 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. A record for all vehicles passing by a camera is stored, including those for vehicles that are not known to be of interest at the time of the read that may in appropriate circumstances be accessed for investigative purposes. 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 solving cases of terrorism, major and organised 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 South Wales  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 data to ensure that access is for legitimate investigation purposes. Members of staff only have access to ANPR data if it is relevant to their role, and the majority of those who have permission 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. After 90 days, access may only be for serious, major or counter terrorism investigations and after 12 months only for major investigations and counter terrorism purposes. Searches of ANPR data can confirm whether vehicles associated with a known criminal has been in the area at the time of a crime and can dramatically speed up investigations.

**Camera locations**

In addition to being mounted within police vehicles, ANPR cameras within South Wales are used at fixed 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 South Wales  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 crime prevention and reduction;

In assessing whether new cameras are to be deployed, a Privacy Impact Assessment will be undertaken. The law enforcement agency will consult with persons and organisations with a reasonable interest in the proposal unless that would be contrary to the purpose of the development, namely to detect, deter and disrupt criminality. South Wales Police is also committed to 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.police.uk/information-and-advice/automatic-number-plate-recognition/](http://www.south-wales.police.uk/en/advice-and-information/roads-and-vehicles/roads-policing/automatic-number-plate-recognition-anpr/www.police.uk/information-and-advice/automatic-number-plate-recognition/)

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