



Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Procedure

This document is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable personnel and the functions provided by the Deputy Mayor for Policing as part of the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority are required to adhere.

Procedure Statement

This Procedure is in support the ANPR policy which has been developed to provide a consistent approach to defining process that meets the requirements of National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement (NASPLE).

This procedure will provide guidance to officers and staff employed by North Yorkshire Police (NYP), outlining their responsibilities in relation to the use and maintenance of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems and how they can access information and/or support. This procedure is applicable to all employees of NYP but has particular relevance to operational police officers, investigators, intelligence staff, Force Control Room (FCR) staff and Information Communication Team (ICT) staff.

Overarching Policies:

ANPR Policy

Other Documents:

National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement v3.3
Guidance for the Development and Review of ANPR Infrastructure V0.4 May 2019
ANPR Data Request Form
Request Retention of North Yorkshire ANPR Data
Application for the Use of ANPR Data in Evidence Request
National ANPR Service: data protection impact assessment (accessible) - GOV.UK
Evidential use of ANPR Data MOU between CPS and NPCC
Rights of Data Subjects Notice V1.0
ACPO The Police use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Version: January 2013
NPCC ANPR Use of Data for Evidential and Intelligence Purposes V1.2
Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) | Police.uk

PROCESS

Why we use ANPR

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology is used 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 LEA throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It is an essential part of the NPCC National ANPR Strategy & North Yorkshire Police ANPR strategy. The geographical size of North Yorkshire means that criminals will use the road network to move around, and through the county.

ANPR is not only a powerful tool in the development of the intelligence picture and the analytical opportunities that presents, but also a technology that allows the Police to react to criminality in “real time”, intercepting and deterring criminals before they cause harm to communities.

How it works

ANPR consists of specialist cameras which read and record number plates of passing vehicles and can take overview images of the vehicle. It then relays this information to a back-office computer system and checks those vehicle registration plates (VRM) against markers held on the Police National Computer (PNC ACT) and locally derived police ANPR database records of vehicles of interests. 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. Data can be shared in real time within and across forces to enable a detailed picture of vehicle movements to be developed.

LIVE Monitoring Alarms & VOI Lists (Vehicles of Interest)

This function is primarily carried out by the ANPR Intelligence Hub, when the Hub isn’t staffed this function is handed over and becomes the responsibility of the Force Control Room. A number of uniformed officers also have this capability using the Instant Alert Console (IAC) on their mobile phones and if monitoring and viewing Alarms should record if any action was taken if the vehicle was stopped by submitting a PNC REACT report for PNC Alerts and a Niche Intel submission for all vehicles of interest stopped to ensure any markers are updated with relevant information.

If the vehicle registration mark captured by the ANPR cameras is a match against any markers held on the PNC or local vehicle of interest list the system will generate an Alarm Record. These alarms are recorded and stored on the system and can be viewed historically or they can be monitored LIVE by authorised users logged on to the system.

The person monitoring the Alarms will verify the VRM against the plate patch image to confirm the accuracy, they will then adopt the “THRIVE” approach to assess the Alarm. This will assist them in making an informed decision around the dispatch of resources in response to the Alarm, circulating the alarm for general observations by radio internally and to adjacent forces if appropriate and recording the action taken.

It must be noted that ANPR has its limitations. It would appear impossible for ANPR to be utilised to its full potential. This is because it is not feasible to monitor and respond to every hit from all databases. It would be unmanageable for North Yorkshire Police to do this as resources and budgets are not unlimited.

To manage these limitations, it is important that priority databases are identified. These databases should then be monitored as a matter of routine on a 24/7 basis. This includes the PNC database with priority given to the monitoring of ACT reports.

The quality and accuracy of the databases is of significance. The information should be accurate and be capable of action. If the information contained within the databases is constantly found to be inaccurate or no specific action is required in response to a hit, then this does not instil confidence in the ANPR system.

ANPR Cameras exist in effectively three forms:

- **Static Cameras:** These are fixed cameras, sited strategically across the road network that monitor traffic across major arterial routes
- **Re-deployable Cameras:** These are cameras which can be erected at locations across the county as a temporary measure to respond to a local policing problem. These cameras need suitable infrastructure available to attach them to and the provision of 24/7 power which is done in conjunction with the councils to identify and convert suitable street lighting columns.
- **Mobile cameras:** These relate to ANPR cameras that are fitted to policing vehicles and other portable devices deployed on a temporary basis.

Camera locations

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 a police force 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 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) will be undertaken. North Yorkshire Police 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.

North Yorkshire Police are 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 include consideration of the impacts on privacy.

Retention and access to stored data

At present around 13000 ANPR cameras nationally, submit on average around 98 million ANPR 'read' records to NAS (National ANPR Systems) daily.

ANPR data from North Yorkshire Police is stored together with similar data from other forces for a period of one year, unless it is retained under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and the CPIA Code of Practice.

National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement (NASPLE) and National Compliance and Audit Standards for Law Enforcement ANPR (Audit Standards) provide 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 a year subject to authorisation of a senior manager.

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.

NAS – Rights of Data Subjects Notice

Data is processed within the National ANPR Service (NAS) by police forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for law enforcement purposes as joint controllers and processing is in compliance with Part 3 Data Protection Act 2018. The Chief Constable is accountable for the ANPR cameras operated within their force area. Detailed information regarding subject rights is available within the Rights of Data Subject Notice.

Primary users of ANPR

Role/Department/Team
ANPR Lead
Force Local Responsible Officer
ANPR Intelligence Hub
Force Intelligence
Crime Analysts
ANPR Technical Team
Specialist Ops
FCR
Crime Surveillance Unit
Dedicated Source Unit
Intel Management Officers
Organised Crime Unit
Anti-Corruption Unit
Investigations
Neighbourhoods

Searching ANPR Data, VOI Lists & Use of ANPR Data for Evidential and Intelligence Purposes

Any access to data must be for law enforcement purposes relating to national security, counter terrorism, the investigation of criminal offences as defined in Annex B of NASPLE 3.2, for operational purposes relevant to individual and public safety. E.g. Missing persons, or for the purpose of audit both scheduled and in relation to allegations of misconduct.

Staff within NYP may be granted access to the extent relevant to their role, in accordance with NYP policy. NYP policy must be consistent with the purposes and standards within NASLPE 3.2 and the specific requirements at Annex C.

Intelligence and evidential reports may only be provided by authorised staff with appropriate access permissions using the functionality within NAC (National ANPR Capability/NAS) components. The

extraction of data by other means such as “screen shots” from components of the NAS (National ANPR Capability/NAS) is not permitted.

Deployment of ANPR Cameras and Specialist ANPR Assets

Please discuss your requirements with the ANPR Technical Team.

Use of ANPR Assets in Safety Camera Vans

This should be done in liaison with the Traffic Bureau Team Leaders and ensuring their use would be in line with NASPLE Part 2; 8.6 – Vehicle mounted Systems and the Force overarching DPIA.

Responsibilities

Process owner: Authorising Officer

Procedure owner: Authorising Officer

Guidance owner: ANPR technical Lead

All staff: need to ensure that they comply with the requirements of ANPR including the use of and disclosure of information.

Definition of Special Terms

N/A