

IDEPP 4th March 2019 1300-1600

8th floor, Tintagel House, 90 Albert Embankment, SE1 7TY

1. Welcome & introductions:

Present were Charles Raab (CR); Giles Herdale (GH) (co-chairs); Richard Berry (RB)*; Dave Johnson (DJ)*; John Davies (JD); Bryan Edwards (BE); Eric Kind (EK); Neil Brown (NB)* (* by skype). The following guests were also present Clare Henderson (CH) (ACE), Dave Powell (DP) (Hampshire), Ian Daft (ID) (NCA). There were apologies from Jo Cavan (JC), Chris Farrimond (CF), Paul Bernal (PB) and Kat Hadjimatheou (KH)

2. Guest introductions

CH introduced herself and described the role of ACE (Accelerated Capability Environment), a function established by the Home Office to bring innovation from academia and industry to bear on operational challenges. Much of this was around better exploitation of data, and inevitably there were a range of policy/ legal/ ethical aspects of problems that were raised. ACE is very interested in more engagement with IDEPP about a more systematic approach to such considerations.

DP introduced himself as a police officer from Hampshire now on attachment to NPCC to support the forthcoming spending review work. He was also engaged in research with University of Winchester (Marion Oswald) on predictive analysis of reoffending risk among perpetrators of domestic abuse.

ID introduced himself from NCA as leading on a new voice biometric project on which he was interested in seeking IDEPP support (see below).

3. Chairs update

The chairs welcomed all to the meeting and provided a verbal update, explaining that despite the length of time since the last formal meeting (May 2018) there had been much activity and regular contact around stakeholder engagement.

Despite the lack of support for the IDEPP business case from the digital policing portfolio last year, there was a clear need for independent objective scrutiny of digital capability development and a growing awareness within police forces that best endeavours at local level were not sustainable on their own.

The following updates were presented:

a. Building ethics into capability development proposal

The chairs circulated a draft paper (attached) which had been developed jointly by GH, CR & RB highlighting opportunities and requirements for earlier engagement in the capability development

process. The presence of ACE at the meeting was potentially significant given their role in bringing innovation closer to the mission.

It was agreed that this proposal should form the basis of engagement with NPCC and Home Office over funding bid for the forthcoming Spending Review.

b. Potential BFEG¹ collaboration

CR explained that he and GH had been invited to speak to the BFEG about both the experience of the WMP report and potential links with BFEG's expanded remit. BFEG had just issued some draft guidelines on facial recognition and were now looking at a forward work programme that cut across some areas of IDEPP interest such as predictive analytics and open source data.

There was discussion about whether and how IDEPP might form a closer relationship with BFEG and on what basis, given issues around capacity, resourcing and independence, and given that BFEG is instructed by HO on pieces of work.

Action – GH and CR to attend BFEG awayday and report back to IDEPP members.

c. Funding and support for IDEPP work

The chairs explained that the issue of long-term sustainable funding for IDEPP was still unresolved.

GH had been in touch with CC Julian Williams, NPCC lead on ethics, and had been invited to attend the UK policing ethics guidance group (UKPEGG). Williams was seeking to co-ordinate the work of local ethics panels, many of which are grappling with digital challenges without necessarily having the necessary resources in house or ways of leveraging expertise externally.

Williams is keen to link IDEPP into this network. There is no direct funding for this work nationally, but he has offered to raise the profile of ethics across Chiefs, and to help in lobbying officers for access to funding for IDEPP.

It was agreed that an arrangement with the NPCC network would be a better option than any structural link with BFEG, but IDEPP would need to have a clear role; maybe leave very local matters to Forces' own ethical devices, but for IDEPP to take up more general, trans-local issues for which Forces, or many of them, see a need for our high-level advice. NPCC could be asked for specific funding for pieces of advice for the Williams network; or Forces could be asked to dig into their pockets for this.

Action – GH to engage with NPCC UKPEGG about IDEPP engagement with local ethics panels

GH and RB also updated the group on discussions with the Home Office about support for building capacity for ethical oversight in policing. This in the context of the growing interest in data ethics in

¹ The Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group (BFEG), a HO non-departmental public body, has been asked to consider ethical issues relating to large and complex data sets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ethics-group-to-oversee-use-of-large-data-sets-by-the-home-office>

government, the launch of the new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation² and the forthcoming spending review. CR is due to speak to Christophe Prince in the Home Office shortly.

Action – CR to update members following engagement with Home Office.

4. IDEPP work programme:

a. NCA new biometrics case

ID from NCA presented to the group on new biometrics use cases around voice identification, and the lack of clear regulatory or policy framework governing the acquisition and use of this technology. In this space law enforcement was seeking to develop some guidelines to support proportionality and necessity considerations and would welcome IDEPP members input into reviewing these. NCA sought to make sure, from the outset, that ethics were taken into consideration; there is a need for new legislation on biometrics. NCA is speaking to many organisations, universities (e.g., Essex; HRBDT project) and internationally to see how we move to different applications; lots of ethical issues in these.

Biometrics Commissioner looks at ‘traditional’ biometrics, involving CCTV, cameras; IPCO is looking at interception; but new forms of biometrics are not being covered: e.g., voice recognition, where proportionality and necessity need to be thought about.

Action – IDEPP members to notify ID of potential interest in developing and reviewing guidelines about voice identification

b. West Mids follow up

CR explained that IDEPP/Turing DEG advisory report into WMP data analytics solution was published on both websites last November and had been picked up in the media (New Scientist and elsewhere). Now WMP had been back to CR to ask if we/Turing would get involved in the next phase of their NDAS (National Data Analytics Solution), which had been funded. WMP had explained that they were gathering a group of ‘stakeholders’ to advise them on the governance and ethical aspects of the NDAS development from now on, and that there could be scope for IDEPP to get involved in more long-term work on this. (Note: e-mail exchanges on this are available from CR on request from IDEPP members).

The meeting consensus was that we wait and see about this, partly because the rationale of the ‘stakeholder’ group, as well as the kind of future IDEPP involvement envisaged was not yet clear; CR to ask WMP for clarification.

Action – CR to follow up with W Mids and update members

c. Met police UCOL request

Kat had been in contact with the Met but was not present to update.

Action – KH to update group on discussions with Met

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/centre-for-data-ethics-and-innovation-cdei#work-programme-and-strategy>

5. Communications strategy:

a. Opportunities to raise profile of IDEPP

The publication of the W Mids report had been noted above. It was noted that IDEPP had a policy of publication of work that was a pre-condition for engagement.

b. Proposed TechUK event on data ethics and policing

GH said that TechUK (industry body) had invited him to their Digital Ethics Summit last December; there was a striking lack of law-enforcement representation at it. As a result he had been discussing a specific follow up event.

Action – GH to update members on forthcoming TechUK event

6. Any other business

Date of next IDEPP meeting: early June 2019. ACE have offered to host meeting.

Action – members to notify GH of availability w/c 3 June.