



NEC

CASE STUDY: NEOFACE WATCH LIVE FACIAL RECOGNITION

EFFECTIVE, INTELLIGENCE-LED USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO TARGET CRIME



Bedfordshire Police

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Since late 2025 Bedfordshire Police have successfully deployed NEC's NeoFace Watch Live Facial Recognition technology in support of intelligence-led operations as part of the force's priorities in tackling crime across the county. They are now helping their neighbouring forces.

Since 2023, the use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology by police forces in the UK has expanded from the first couple of pilots into a nationwide programme supported by central Home Office funding. In the early days, many forces trialled the technology under mutual aid agreements and Bedfordshire Police was one of those, using LFR vans and officers from South Wales Police to work at the Bedford River Festival, a large family event, in 2024.

The deployment was seen as a success, with the force making 3 arrests over the two days, based on 7 confirmed alerts from their database, with the system scanning over 200,000 faces. Importantly, however, there were no false alerts generated by the system.

When the opportunity came in 2025 to bid for Home Office funding to host two LFR vans, the force were successful and now, with a dedicated LFR team, are deploying regularly to town centres and other locations across the county.

Facts and Stats

(Sept 2025 to May 2026)

- » 43 Deployments
- » 135 alerts leading to 127 disposals comprising 57 arrests, 63 managed offender conditions checks and 7 dealt with by alternative disposal.
- » 0 false alerts
- » Scanned over 788,000 faces with an average of 19,000 per deployment



POLICE

The team at Bedfordshire Police have worked hard to take on the lessons from other forces' use of LFR. They have put in place their operational guidelines and constantly review the use of the technology through their new AI Ethics Board.

Following a programme of public engagement the technology is used on a weekly basis in support of force priorities to counter domestic violence and reduce violence associated with knife crime in town centres, as well as being used to identify people wanted on outstanding court warrants and undertake checks on registered sex offenders.

Strategic Lead for LFR, Superintendent Ian Taylor, said: "Live Facial Recognition is an excellent example of how advancements in technology can be harnessed positively within policing.

"Following just two deployments, we've seen several offenders swiftly apprehended, including one individual who had been outstanding on a court warrant for only three days.

"We will continue to use this innovative technology to remove criminals from our streets and safeguard vulnerable individuals, while strictly adhering to robust guidelines that ensure the safe and compliant deployment of Live Facial Recognition."

The aim of the Home Office programme for the LFR vans was to provide access to this technology for all forces in England and Wales and the Bedfordshire team are now working closely with their colleagues in neighbouring forces across the East of England in support of their operations both with the vans and staff to operate them when required.

FIND OUT MORE

NEC NeoFace Watch is being used by Police Forces across the UK and globally to provide a world-leading Facial Recognition capability . Use the QR code to find out more



For more information on the services NEC Software Solutions offers visit our website necsws.com/public-safety-software or get in contact with us at hello@necsws.com



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