Opportunities and Challenges in AI

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INFORMATION

Ethics Committee

What is the Ethics Committee?

Following a detailed stakeholder engagement, the Ethics Committee has been set up by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and West Midlands Police (WMP). The Committee's job will be to advise the PCC and Chief Constable on data science projects being proposed by WMP's Data Analytics Lab.

The Lab is led by specially recruited data scientists and will develop programmes of work that use data more intelligently to help WMP prevent crime, allocate resources more efficiently and help it to do its job of keeping the public safe.

The Ethics Committee has been set up to help ensure that ethics and people's rights are put at the heart of the Lab's work.
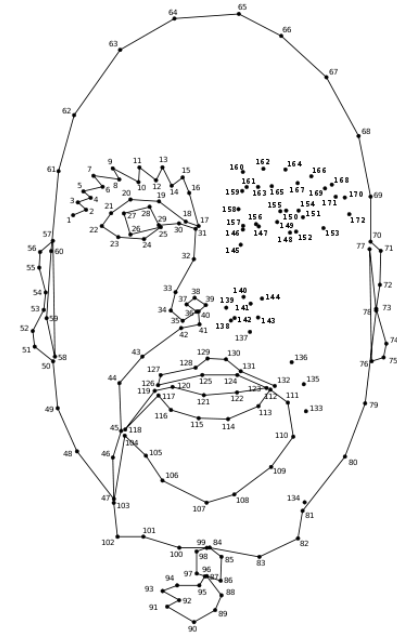
INFORMATION

Building Blocks

Criminal Justice Board

Decisions

— Ethics Committee

Opportunities and challenges

- Enabling more effective analysis of disparate digital data sources, supporting a preventative, rather than reactive, approach to harm (Babuta & Oswald 2020).

- Responsibility to make best use of data sources available.

- Addressing significant problems e.g. disproportionality, intelligence gaps.

Themes emerging from Committee proceedings

- Intended **benefits**

- **DPIA** and **legal advice**

- Inclusion and relevance of data and **scientific/statistical validity**

- **Biases/false positives/false negatives**

- **Classification** of outputs

Think first about impact when 'operationalized'

- **Handling the output** and **Article 8**

- It's **'intelligence' not fact** – how will it be used? Where will it be disclosed? What if it turns out to be wrong or misleading?

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All we need is ethics – isn't it?

"Ethics is **both more and less** than law: it is more because many ethical concerns are not addressed by the law and less because the outcome of ethical considerations are not necessarily transformed into legal norms and thus not enforceable by way of law."

(Hildebrandt 2019)

Three-pillar approach

Law plus **guidance/policy** interpreted for the relevant context	**Standards:** *Scientific* standards *Ethical* standards attached to personal responsibility	**People**: recruitment, professional development, culture, senior leadership commitment, accountability of all
Independent oversight and advice/scrutiny		

Law – there's lots of it!

- Design must link to **legal frameworks**
- Arrest, search, surveillance, intelligence…
- '**reasonable grounds**' links both to whether data inputs are relevant and tool performance
- Needs to be **1st step**

Ethics

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│             │       │ Scientific  │       │             │
│     Law     │ ◄────► │  Validity   │ ◄────► │   Ethics    │
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The ethics edge 'is the line where the law no longer guides and protects us, leaving ethics as the lone standard by which to gauge our behaviour.'
(Liautaud, 2021)

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Independent advice/scrutiny - challenges

- **Purpose?** Pure tech or 'how to do policing'? Should we be concerned with operational outcomes? Should we be concerned with *not* doing data analytics?

- 'the Force has always used data to drive decisions'

- **Balancing** committee concerns and operational requirements in fast moving environment where impact of new techniques needs to be demonstrated

- 'senior decision makers operationalise the findings in line with the strategic priorities'

Independent advice/scrutiny – what and how?

- New? External? Expertise? Rolling (from idea to operational)? Function: Advisory?

- Can police 'push ahead anyway'? 'it can be unclear how the committee's recommendations will be actioned or communicated'

- Diverse skills, experience & backgrounds 'is the biggest single strength of the Committee'

- 'important pathfinding role' **esp around scientific validity, information, stakeholders and consequences**

Final thought

Technical and statistical aspects of data analytics should not be isolated from the legal, operational policing and ethical considerations, as each will influence the other, and influence how AI is evaluated