



# Digital Policing Conference 2026

## APCC New Tech Ethics Portfolio

PCCs Making a Difference | Date: 19.03.26



## Introduction – AI in Policing

Technology is increasingly part of policing – but as an enabler, to aid decision-making and action. Its application can help:

- Detect and solve crime
- Keep the public safe
- Inform decision-making
- Improve productivity, freeing up valuable police time, e.g. extract data from multiple sources simultaneously
- Tackling criminal use of AI such as fraud

## Role of PCCs in force use of Artificial Intelligence

- Voice of the public in policing
- Scrutinising police use of AI and holding CC to account for responsible deployment
- Arranging local governance mechanisms to ensure AI use is ethical
- Ensuring that the force is transparent with its use of AI



## National PCC Role - APCC New Tech Ethics Portfolio

- APCC is the national membership body for PCCs and national portfolios managed on a cross-party basis
- The APCC provides PCCs with guidance and resources to support them in overseeing this complex and rapidly evolving area
- The APCC works to influence national policy development to ensure that safeguards are in place to support responsible use of AI

## Public impressions of Police use of AI

- PCCs are well suited to understand the needs of local communities and the impact that AI will have on them.
- Research undertaken by CENTRIC to understand the views of the public shows us that:
  - 64% of the public consider police use of AI to be beneficial and 61% of the public strongly support it
  - That said, a majority of the public (75%) want mandatory accountability in place before AI is deployed
  - Currently, only about 20% of the public believe that this accountability is in place
  - Policing has work to do here to ensure that accountability is in place, and is publicised

## AI Risks and Need for Oversight

- There are some risks around the use of AI in policing that we need to be aware of:
  - Bias and discrimination
  - Privacy and surveillance concerns
  - Transparency and explainability
  - Accuracy and reliability
  - Public trust and legitimacy
  - Legal and regulatory risk
- Governance and oversight mechanisms will be key to understanding these risks and in mitigating them



## PCC Oversight Mechanisms

PCCs have undertaken a wide range of actions to hold their Chief accountable for use of AI. This includes;

- Regular accountability meetings between the Chief Constable and PCC
- Technology-Specific Ethics Committees
- General Ethics Committees
- Policy directions including MoUs

## National Centre for AI in Policing

- APCC welcomes the new National Centre for AI in Policing which was announced in the Police Reform White Paper
- Three-year investment of £115 million to enable rapid and responsible adoption of AI
- Whilst a positive step, the centre must be rooted in tripartite governance, with PCCs playing a key role in:
  - Supporting Chief Constables in ethical procurement
  - Providing scrutiny and accountability of the Centre
  - Ensuring when policing deploys AI, it is ethical, legal and proportionate