Citizen Consultation on the Police Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the UK: Acceptance, Trust and Accountability

Highlevel Report

Public Version

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CENTRIC

Centre of Excellence in Terrorism, Resilience, Intelligence and Organised Crime Research

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FOREWORD

In June 2025, the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, emphasised the value of Artificial Intelligence for the UK and its public services. But he also underscored a key challenge to its adoption, namely social fears about the growing role and consequences of AI. This is true for public services generally, and even more so for AI use in policing.

This report presents CENTRIC's Citizen Consultation on the Police Use of Artificial Intelligence, which draws on the views of **more than 10,000 citizens from across the United Kingdom.** It provides a clear picture of public attitudes towards the use of AI in policing and security, and highlights how trust can be built, maintained, and – if necessary – restored. The report further details citizens' acceptance and trust in AI across specific deployment scenarios, ranging from illegal migration to national security, as well their need for independent oversight for all deployments.

Additional results on the public perceptions of AI, as well as public trust in police and other institutions, can be provided for specific UK nations, regions, ethnicities, voting preferences, genders, age groups, and youths.

The consultation is part of CENTRIC's wider work on AI accountability, supporting police forces, government, and policy-makers to ensure that AI is used responsibly and in line with public expectations. Since 2021, this work has focused on three core areas: strengthening operational practice within policing, shaping policy and governance with citizen-informed requirements, and reinforcing societal trust in AI.

The insights in this report are intended to support the Home Office, government departments, and policing leaders in delivering AI-enabled policing that is transparent, accountable, and trusted by the public.

Prof. Babak Akhgar OBE
Director of CENTRIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report offers core insights from a citizen consultation with 10,114 members of the public across all four nations of the United Kingdom. The consultation was conducted via an online survey from April-June 2025 and represents perspectives from the general public, both adults and youths (14-18 years). The report provides high-level results.

Support for AI in policing
There is strong general support for integrating AI into policing functions:

- 61.3% of respondents support the use of AI by police.
- 64.0% believe AI enhances police capabilities, compared to only 12.4% who feel it undermines them.
- Levels of support vary across regions and nations.

Concerns and perceived risks
Despite overall support, significant concerns remain:

- The public worries about a lack of accountability, where police may blame AI for errors.
- Concerns over algorithmic bias and inaccuracies were prominent, especially regarding how such errors could affect specific groups.
- Online privacy remains a sensitive issue, with concerns over potential over-surveillance or misuse of personal data.

Limitations of AI for personal safety and rights
A sizeable portion of the public expresses scepticism about AI's broader protective value:

- 35.4% believe AI is ineffective in protecting their own safety.
- 31.5% express similar doubts about AI's role in safeguarding others or ensuring fundamental rights.

Key benefits identified by the public
Respondents recognise key advantages to AI adoption in policing, especially for:

- Increased police effectiveness in solving crimes.
- More time and resources for the police to focus on serious, high-priority crimes.
- Improvements for national security.

Trust in AI vs. human-AI collaboration

The findings highlight a gap between trust in police using AI versus trust in AI acting autonomously:

- 54.9% trust the police to use AI in decision-support roles.
- Only 36.0% trust AI to make decisions independently.
- A significant 39.6% of respondents are unwilling to contribute personal data for the training of AI systems for policing purposes, with only 9.3% very willing.

Deployment contexts and public expectations

The public's views depend strongly on the specific AI application context:

- Highest acceptance of AI use by police relates to the identification of (potential) perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and terrorism; acceptance is lowest for the automation of 999 emergency calls.
- Trust levels in AI are highest both for situations in which AI deployment carries low risks for the public and in which AI use can reduce serious harms to vulnerable groups (children).
- Strongest independent oversight is expected for situations in which AI makes its own decisions in high-risk situations.
- Monitoring by an independent oversight body is expected whenever police deploy AI, not just in contexts of low public acceptance or low trust towards AI use by police.

Accountability and governance

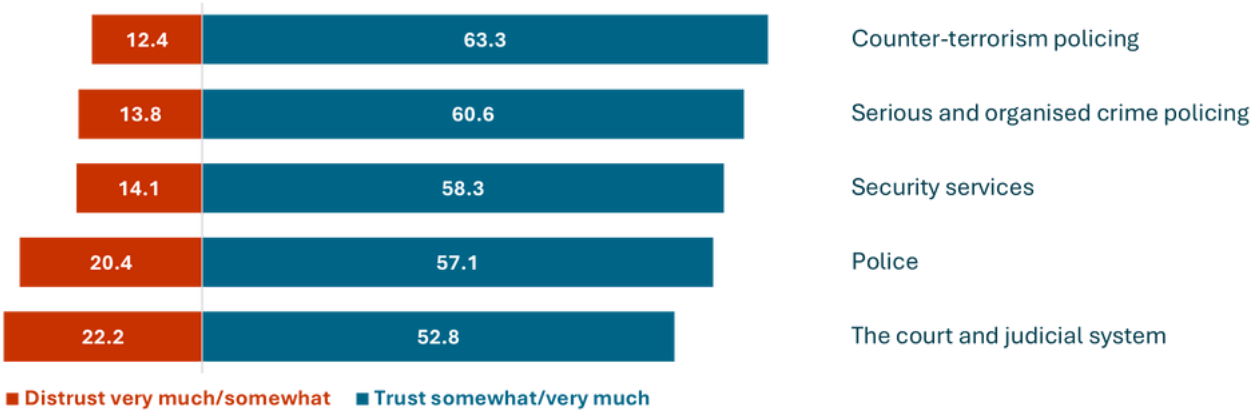
There is a clear demand for robust governance:

- 53.3% trust the police to use AI accountably, while around 25% do not.
- Explainability (of the AI being used) and justification (for its use) alone are not sufficient to build trust.
- The most effective enablers of trust are close monitoring and strong accountability mechanisms.
- 75.5% of respondents support a mandatory accountability process prior to deploying AI in policing, but currently fewer than 20% believe such measures are in place.

Trust in policing and other institutions

- Nearly 60% of citizens express trust in the police, while 20% express distrust.
- Across the four nations, Northern Ireland shows the highest level of trust in policing (59.3%), Wales the lowest level (56.0%) .
- Across institutions, counter-terrorism policing and serious and organised crime policing are trusted the most (63.6% and 60.6%, respectively); only 52.8% trust the court and judicial system.

Level of public trust in different institutions
% of people saying they trust each of the five institutions



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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BACKGROUND

Context and purpose of the citizen consultation

Public trust in the purposes and the ways in which police deploy AI is crucial. The question is how to ensure trust, and how to regain public trust, if broken.

CENTRIC's citizen consultation with 10,114 citizens is an important foundation for understanding public views about AI use in policing across all four nations in the UK. Its findings offer detailed insights into public opinions, as well as concrete lessons for policing and policy-makers on how to retain and improve trust, and – importantly – regain the public's trust after AI failures.

The citizen consultation is part of CENTRIC's broader work on AI accountability. Since 2021, CENTRIC has provided practical tools and guidance frameworks to support policing and security organisations in achieving responsible and accountable AI use in line with public expectations.

Our focus on accountability is driven by the recognition that AI deployments in policing are often controversial, and if they go wrong, can undermine public trust not only in AI but also in the police as an institution.

CENTRIC's work on AI and accountability aims to deliver impact at three levels:

1. **Operational impact** with focus on improved knowledge and capabilities within UK policing on how to integrate AI accountability into the design, procurement, and deployment decision-making of AI.
2. **Policy-related impact** to support policy-makers and governance bodies with a validated approach to AI accountability by formulating concrete and expert and citizen tested requirements.
3. **Societal impact** to improve the societal representation in AI accountability measures and discussions, and ultimately improve societal trust in AI use for policing purposes.

The citizen consultation helps to support all three objectives by providing an in-depth national picture across seven thematic areas, as well as insights into the perceptions by specific demographic groups.

Information assessed

The consultation investigates the following aspects:

- Acceptance of, and trust in, AI and AI-supported policing
- Risks and benefits of AI for personal, societal and institutional policing purposes
- Measures to improve public trust in the police use of AI
- The role of accountability for trust
- Public reactions to 32 deployment scenarios, including current and potential (future) deployment areas
- Measures to recover trust in case of AI failures (qualitative data, not included in the high-level report)
- Trust in the police and other institutions
- Demographic data

HIGH-LEVEL RESULTS

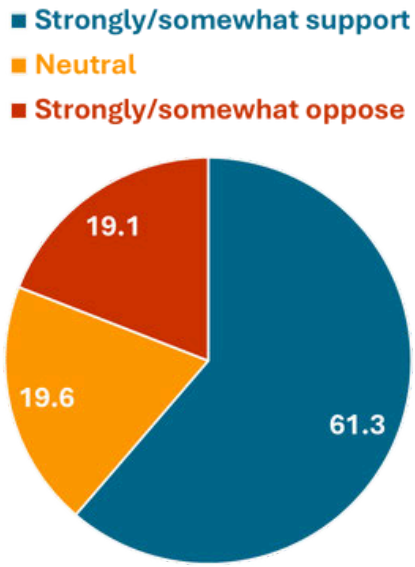
How strong is the public support for AI use by police?

The survey identifies a **largely positive public view on AI use by police:** 61.3% support police to deploy AI, 18.9% of this group strongly. A large group moreover considers **AI as a capability that enhances policing (**64.0%) rather than undermines it.

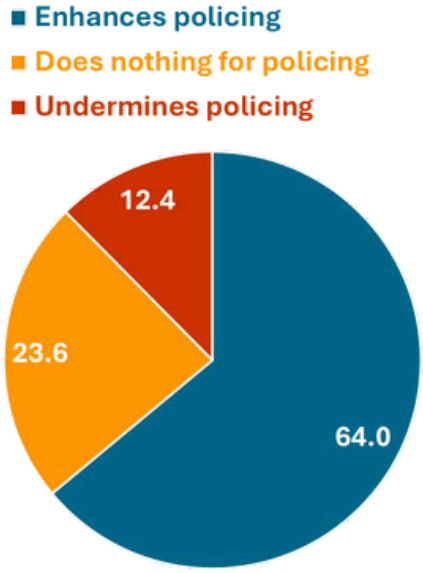
The reasons for support are explained in the over 7,000 free text comments at the end of the survey. These showed that support is founded in the expectation that AI makes current policing efforts more effective, as well as the expectation that AI will help police react more effectively against future crime challenges. AI is thus seen as **an important measure to 'future-proof' policing capabilities**.

Negative reactions to police use of AI use are voiced by **a smaller group who oppose its use:** 19.1% (7.2% of these strongly). In addition, **12.4% consider AI as a capability that undermines policing**. This opposition stems from lacking trust in police, as well as fears that 'the police start seeing [individuals] as data rather than people'. Moreover, AI is seen as 'too premature' to be used for policing and security purposes.

The majority of citizens supports AI use by police
% of people saying they want police to use AI



The majority of citizens says AI enhances policing
% of people saying AI use by police is beneficial



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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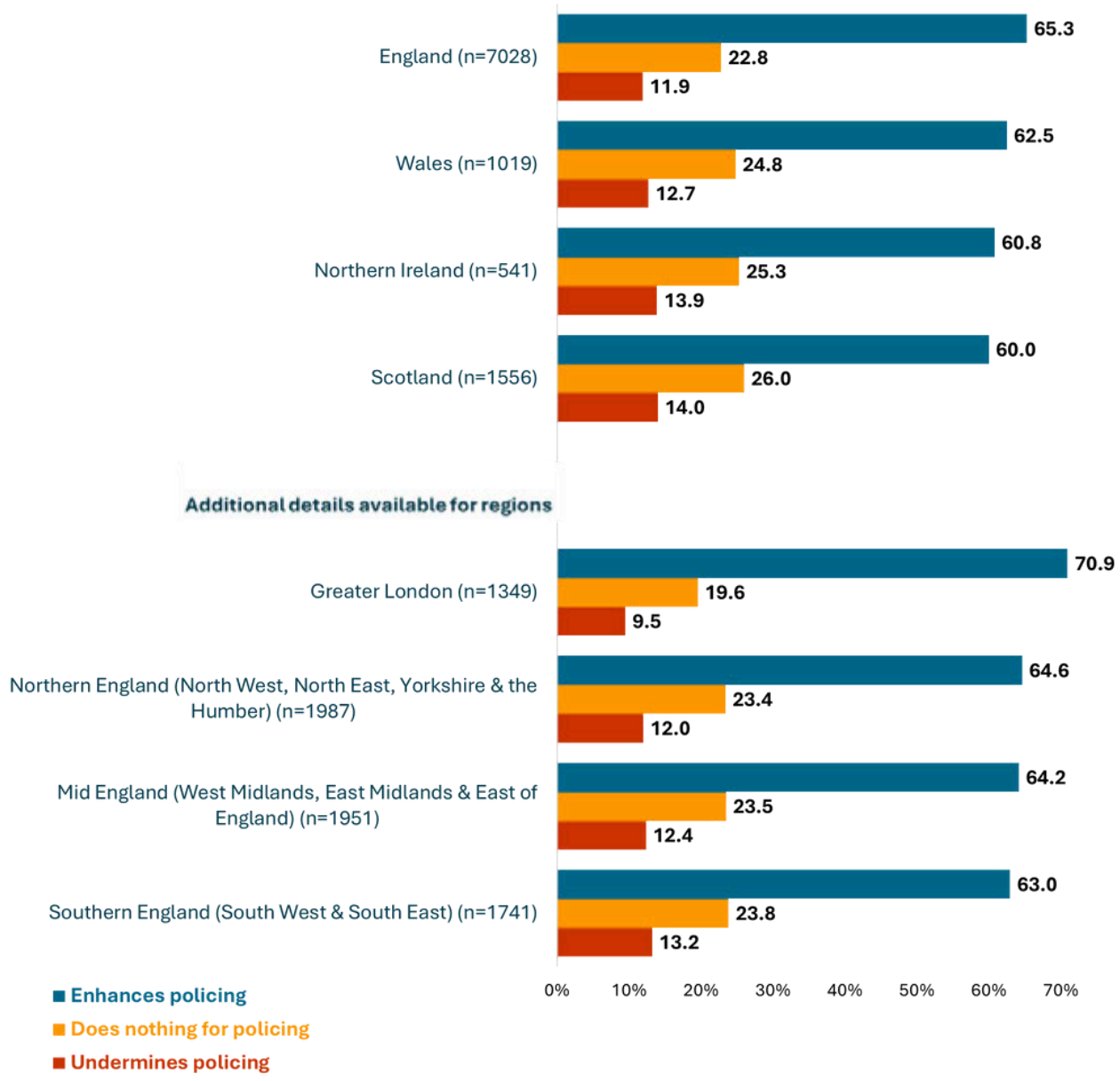
Notable is also the considerable number of people with a neutral (i.e., neither supportive nor oppositional) stance. In fact, **the neutral stance is as big as that opposing AI use by police**: 19.6% neutral vs 19.1% against, respectively. An even larger group (23.6%) **doubts whether AI has any effect** (either positive or negative) for policing.

National and regional differences

The level of **support for AI varies across nations and regions**. It is worth to note, however, that the support for AI seems not directly linked to the level of trust in police within nations and regions.

Varying levels of support for AI amongst nations and regions
% of people saying AI use by police is beneficial



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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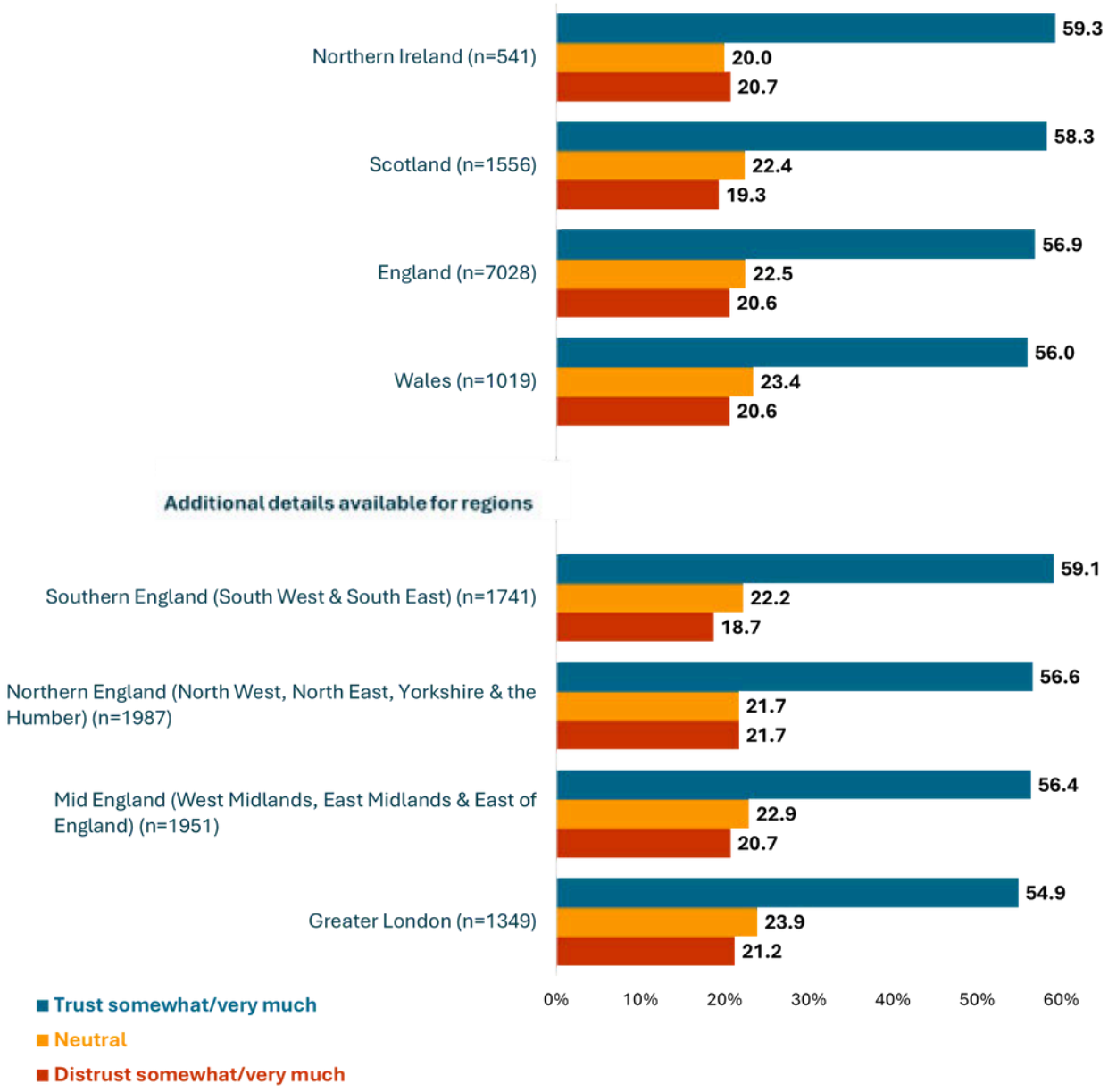
Variation in trust levels in police across nations and regions

% of people who say they trust police



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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What are seen as the main risks and benefits of AI?

To understand public views on risks and benefits, we differentiated between three areas of impact, namely personal, societal and institutional:

- **Personal aspects** address individual safety, privacy and the safety of people someone cares about.
- **Societal aspects** address effects on communities or public goods such as fundamental rights and effective use of taxes.
- **Institutional aspects** address impacts on the ability of the police to fulfil their role.

Main risks and concerns

The strongest public concern is the fear that AI is used to escape responsibility for failures, i.e., that **'police pass the blame to AI if something goes wrong'**. This is followed by worries **about errors and biases that will negatively affect specific groups**, which addresses risks of negative AI consequences for potentially vulnerable/marginalised groups in society. Less concerns are voiced about personal risks, such as individual privacy offline and errors and biases affecting oneself.

The **most pertinent public concerns therefore seem to be societal and institutional**, rather than personal.

The strongest public concern is about police passing blame to AI; citizens are less concerned about their own privacy and errors/biases affecting themselves

% of people who are concerned about risks when police use AI; neutral responses not shown

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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Main benefits

The public sees the strongest benefits of AI in the **effectiveness of the police to solve crimes** and in an **improved ability and more time for the police to deal with serious crimes**. 67.8% and 66.4%, respectively, indicate that AI makes these aspects better, compared to only 12.0% and 11.3%, respectively, who think that AI makes them worse.

Fewer benefits are seen with regards to the **protection of their own safety** and even less for the **protection of fundamental rights:** 47.0% and 37.2%, respectively, think AI makes these aspects better, compared to 17.6% and 28.5%, who think that AI makes them worse.

Citizens perceive the main benefit of AI in enhancing the effectiveness of police to solve crimes, including serious crimes; the least benefits are seen for the protection of their own safety and fundamental rights
% of people who perceive benefits or harms when police use AI; answers for 'no effect' not shown

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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No effect of AI for policing

Additional insights come from answers that claim that 'AI has no effect' on policing. More than a third of the public considers AI as **being ineffective for their own safety** (35.4%), **the safety of people they care about** (31.5%), as well as **the protection of fundamental rights** (31.5%). Fewer doubts exist on the impact of AI for the **effectiveness of police to solve crimes** (20.2% indicate 'no effect') and on national security (19.2% indicate 'no effect').

These findings underscore that, similar to risks, **the public sees AI's core effects in its societal and institutional benefits**, rather than personal ones.

The public doubts whether AI has an effect for the protection of their own safety, other's safety and fundamental rights; they have least doubts about the effects of AI when used for national security and for solving crime

% of people who perceive no effect when police use AI

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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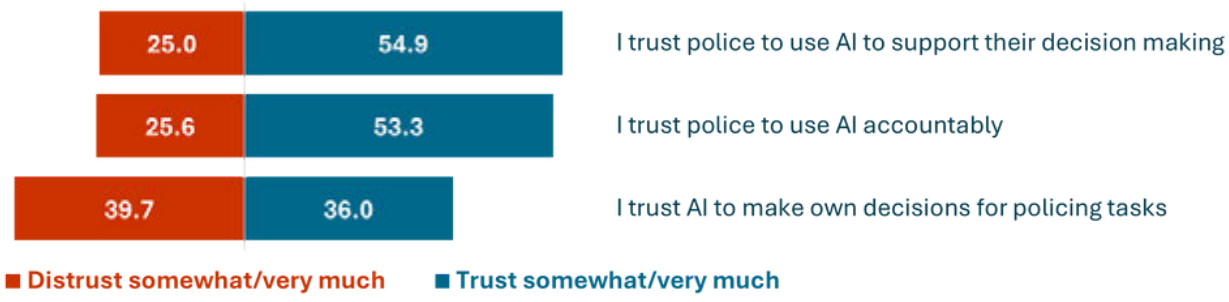
How much does the public trust AI use by police and AI decisions?

The picture on trust is mixed. Slightly over **50% of the public trust the police to use AI to support their decision-making**; 15.4% of these 'very much'. This still leaves 1 in 4 (25.0%) who distrust AI for decision support and 1 in 5 (20.2%) who are neutral about the issue.

The level of public **trust is considerably lower when AI is allowed to make its own decisions for policing tasks**. Only 36% trust AI to make its own decisions (9.4% of these 'very much'), compared to 39.7% who distrust AI-driven decisions (15.5% 'very much'; 24.3% are 'neutral'). Slightly over **50% do trust the police to use AI accountably** (16.3% 'very much'). This leaves 1 in 4 (25.6%) who distrust police to use AI accountably and 1 in 5 (21.1%) who are neutral on the issue.

A majority of citizens trusts police to use AI to support their decision-making, but reactions are split about AI making own decisions for policing tasks
% of people that say they trust or distrust, neutral responses not shown



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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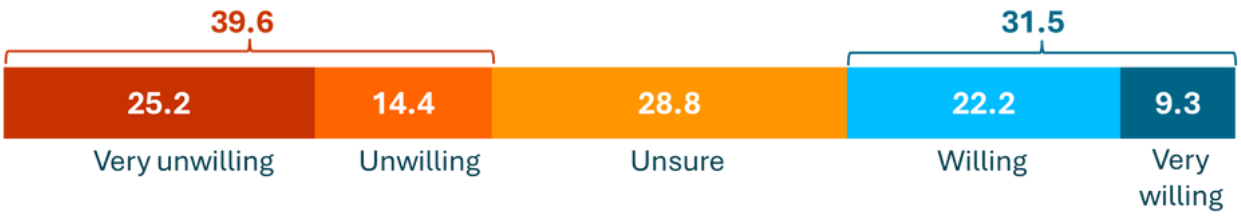
We further asked how willing someone would be to provide their own personal information to train AI for policing and security purposes. This **question is a proxy for trust** – and reveals a high level of unwillingness or at least uncertainty: **40% were (very) unwilling to provide their personal information for training** and 29% unsure. Only a very small minority (9.3%) were 'very willing' to provide their information.

People are split on whether they would be willing to provide their own data to train AI for police and security tasks
% of people that say they are willing to provide own data



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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Public reactions to 32 different AI deployment scenarios

Public attitudes are often impacted by the specific situation in which the police deploy their AI capabilities. As part of the consultation, we therefore provided 32 disparate AI deployment scenarios to map out systematic variations.

The 32 scenarios **cover existing as well as possible (future) AI uses in policing and security**. The scenarios vary with respect to their deployment area (e.g., migration, child sexual exploitation, counter-terrorism, burglary, forensics, etc.), the deploying organisation (police, Home Office, Border Forces), their purpose (crime prevention, crime investigation including the identification of perpetrators, internal police efficiencies, etc.) and the risk level for privacy intrusions (low vs high). The full list of AI deployment scenarios is provided in the Methodology section.

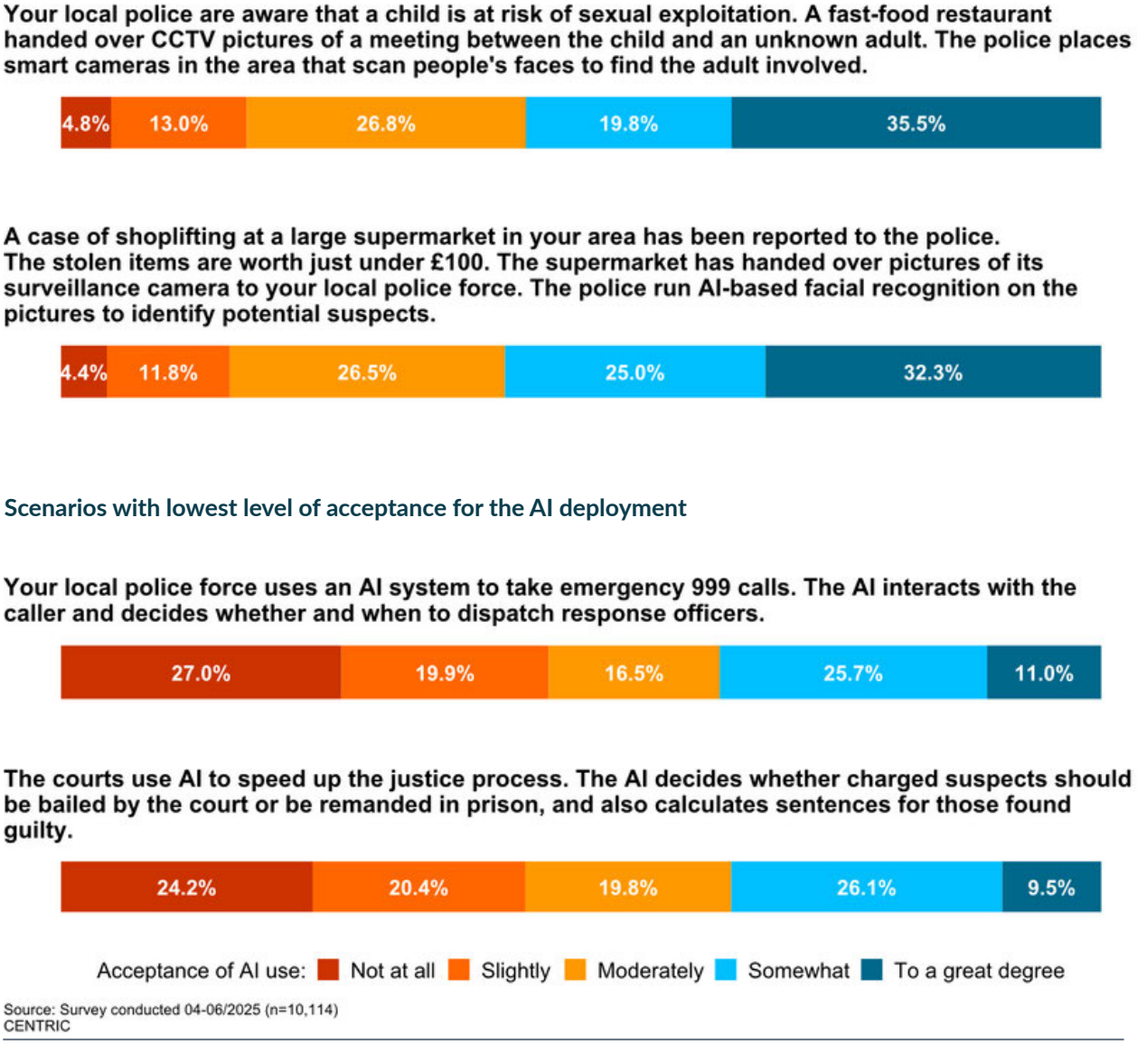
For each deployment scenario we assessed:

- its general acceptance
- the degree to which AI is trusted in this context
- the expected level of monitoring by an independent oversight body

Acceptance of AI use

The comparison across scenarios demonstrates how strongly public reactions are influenced by the type of AI deployment situation. Public acceptance of **AI-automated 999 emergency calls** or **automating decisions on criminal suspects and prisoners,** for instance, is considerably lower at 27.4% and 29.3%, respectively, than **acceptance for AI use to identify (potential) perpetrators of child sexual exploitation** or to **identify (potential) terrorists crossing UK borders** (62.4% and 58.0%).

Scenarios with highest level of acceptance for the AI deployment



Scenarios with lowest level of acceptance for the AI deployment

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10,114)
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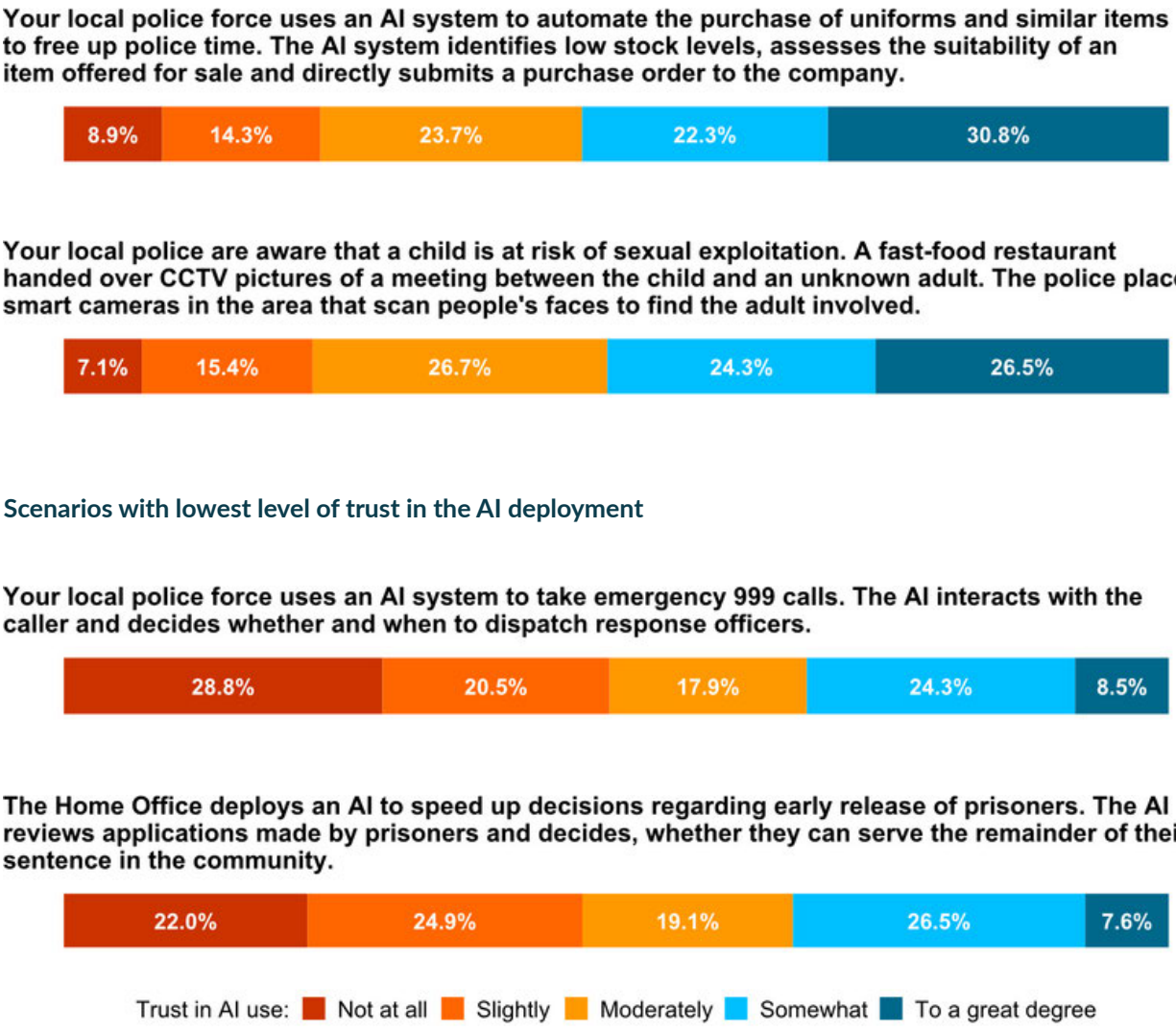
Trust in AI use

The highest degrees of public trust in the AI use by police exist for internal efficiency gains such as automating the purchase of police uniforms (54.5%) and the protection of a child from sexual exploitation (53.2%).

This suggests that **trust in AI is highest both for situations in which AI deployments carry low risks for the public and for situations in which AI can reduce serious harms to vulnerable groups.** In contrast, trust is lowest where AI may cause direct harms to individuals themselves, for instance, where AI replaces 999 dispatchers (26.3%) or where AI makes decisions about an early release of prisoners (26.6%).

It is worth to note, however, that even the highest trust levels are only slightly above 50%, indicating a limited degree of trust in AI use by police overall.

Scenarios with highest level of trust in the AI deployment



Scenarios with lowest level of trust in the AI deployment

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10,114)
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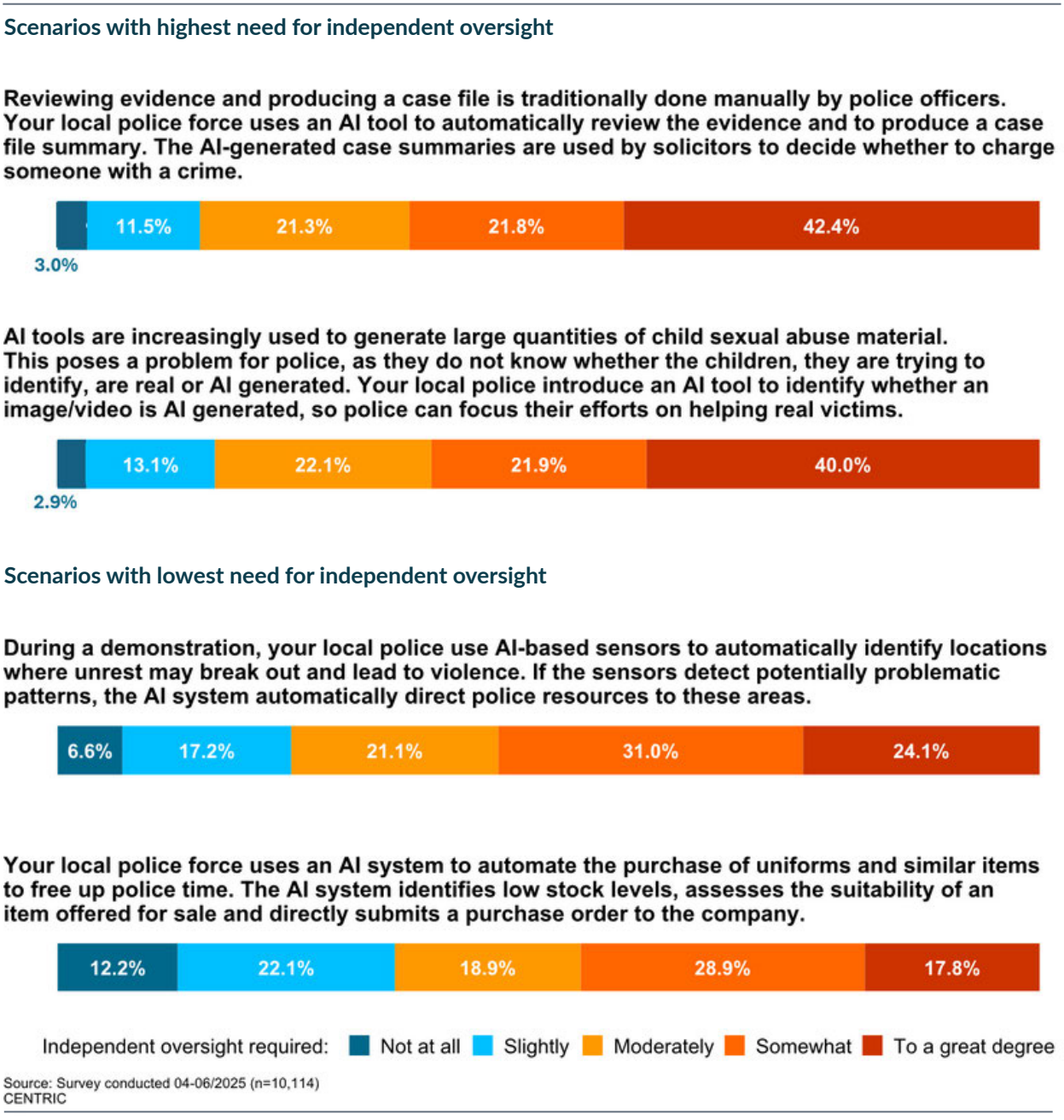
Need for independent oversight

The context also affects the degree to which the public expects monitoring by an independent body for each AI deployment. The public expects the **strongest independent oversight for scenarios in which AI makes its own decisions in high-risk situations** (e.g., when AI is used to automatically review evidence: 63.7% or automatically identify AI generated child-sexual exploitation material: 62.1%). The lowest need for independent oversight is given for the purchase of uniforms (36.7%) and the deployment of AI sensors during demonstrations to direct police resources (45.2%).



When comparing acceptance, trust and need for oversight, it becomes clear however, that **oversight by independent bodies is a general concern for the public, independent of acceptance and trust.**

While the public has strong expectations for independent oversight in situations with low trust and acceptance (e.g., scenario 23 in which an AI system takes emergency 999 calls or scenario 17 in which AI is deployed to speed up decisions regarding the early release of prisoners), independent oversight is also expected in scenarios with considerable trust and acceptance levels (e.g., scenario 7 in which an AI tool identifies whether a CSAM image/video is AI generated). **Monitoring by an independent oversight body is thus not only needed in situations of low public acceptance or trust but a general expectation whenever police deploy AI.**

The role of AI accountability for public trust

The importance of independent oversight together with concerns about negative AI consequences and of police 'passing blame to AI if something goes wrong' points to issues of accountability and lacking trust in policing organisations.

We asked the public to assess how **five different measures will impact their trust in AI use by police.**

Explainability and justification emerged as the least effective measure from the public's perspective: 39.0% indicates that this measure gives them only slight trust or no trust at all. This is a higher than the 30.4% who signal that this measure gives them considerable or even very high trust.

Compensation and redress fare slightly better (33.3% considerable/very high trust vs 35.5% limited/no trust), as does **enforcement of changes to the AI system** in cases where the police use of AI leads to negative consequences (33.4% considerable/very high trust vs 35.2% no/limited trust).

The **most effective measures,** and the only ones where 'trust' percentages are higher than those for 'no trust', are **close monitoring** and **effective accountability** (38.5% and 40.0%, respectively).

AI accountability instils more trust than explainability
% of people that say this measure gives them trust, neutral responses not shown

Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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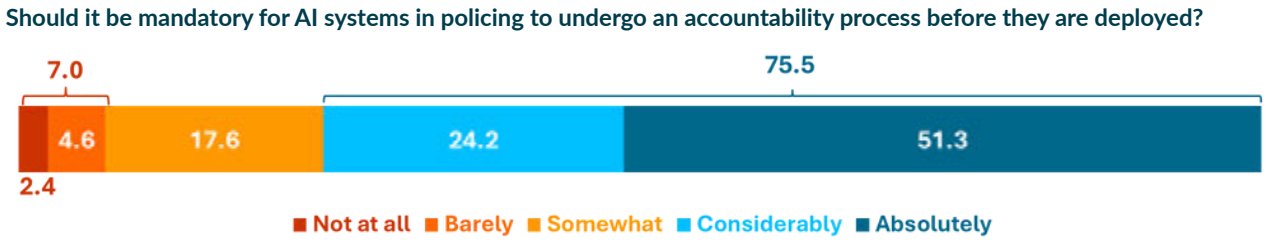
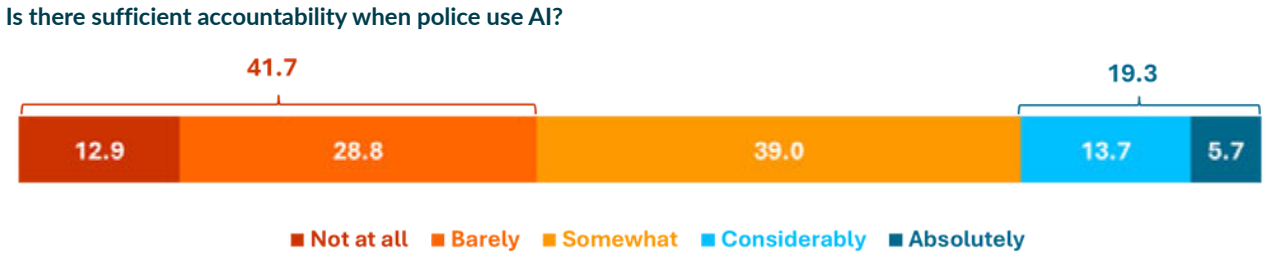
In this context is it compelling that **75.5% of the public want a mandatory accountability process, before the police deploy AI.** However, less than 20% of the public currently see AI accountability in policing as sufficiently established.

A majority of people want accountability in place before AI is deployed
% of people that say AI accountability should be mandatory



Only a minority of people perceive sufficient accountability in AI use of police
% of people that say there is sufficient accountability



Source: Survey conducted 04-06/2025 (n=10.114)
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Citizen-based recommendations for police use of AI

The CENTRIC National Citizen Consultation, based on over 10,000 citizens, shows that a majority of the UK public supports AI in policing, particularly where it enhances the effectiveness of policing and addresses serious harms such as child sexual exploitation and terrorism. Trust, however, drops sharply when AI operates autonomously compared to trust when AI supports officers and staff.

Public concerns are focused on accountability gaps, with a majority of citizens demanding mandatory accountability before deployment, yet few believing sufficient safeguards exist today.

Independent oversight is a consistent public expectation, even for deployments with high acceptance, underscoring that oversight must be universal.

Deployment of AI in policing should therefore:

- Establish statutory, independent oversight and accountability mechanisms.
- Enforce mandatory pre-deployment reviews and bias testing.
- Strengthen transparency and citizen engagement to maintain legitimacy.
- Apply a tiered risk-based deployment model, prioritising crime-solving and child protection, while restricting high-risk uses such as AI-led 999 triage and prisoner release.

Adopting an ‘accountability-first’ AI model will allow the UK to harness AI’s benefits for policing while ensuring public acceptance, trust and accountability.

High-level recommendations from CENTRIC's Citizen Consultation

Further detailed recommendations are provided in the full Consultation report.

1. Governance and oversight

- Create a statutory AI Oversight Authority for policing and security, independent from policing and law enforcement, with powers to monitor, audit, and sanction improper AI use.
- Mandate pre-deployment accountability reviews for all AI systems, including testing for fairness, reliability, and proportionality.
- Require regular post-deployment audits and publish findings to appropriate authorities and oversight bodies.
- Build cross-institutional coordination (Home Office, Information Commissioner, Equality & Human Rights Commission) to avoid siloed regulation.

2. Accountability and responsibility

- Caution against the transfer of 'blame' from police to AI systems. Ensure accountability always rests with the provider and/or user deploying the AI.
- Introduce a national framework for redress and compensation when AI errors cause harm, modelled on Ombudsman-style approaches.
- Require record-keeping ('AI decision logs') for all uses in critical policing tasks, ensuring traceability for courts, oversight bodies, and citizens (consistent with the forthcoming Public Candour Bill).

3. Transparency and public communication

- Implement Transparency by Default requiring police forces to disclose where, why, and how AI is being deployed, including details of training data sources, under consideration of operation/legal restrictions (e.g., national security, victim protection).
- Produce plain-language impact assessments for each deployment, available to the public, where not restricted by operational/legal restrictions.
- Ensure public awareness to clarify benefits, risks, and limits of AI in policing, countering misinformation.

4. Deployment and risk management

- Tiered deployment model:
  - Low-risk efficiency AI (e.g., logistics, scheduling, admin): light oversight.
  - Medium-risk operational AI (e.g., crime pattern analysis, forensics support, life-facial recognition): monitored with human-in-the-loop.
  - High-risk decision AI (e.g., sentencing, prisoner release, emergency call triage): tightly restricted or prohibited.
- Require human final decision-making for any system affecting liberty, safety, rights (e.g., detention, bail, surveillance) or complaints.
- Review AI uses with low public acceptance and high risk (e.g., AI replacing 999 operators, autonomous patrol robots) to ensure benefits outweigh the risks.

5. Bias, fairness and equality

- Require bias testing across demographic groups before procurement and during deployment.
- Establish documentation of any known biases and where required, ensure appropriate mitigation measures.
- Establish citizen-informed fairness benchmarks, especially for vulnerable or historically over-policed groups.
- Mandate regular Equality Impact Assessments for AI tools in use.
- Ensure independent testing of systems before approval.

6. Privacy and data protection

- Introduce a 'necessity and proportionality test' before deploying AI with large-scale data collection from the public (e.g., facial recognition, social media monitoring).
- Require data minimisation and purpose limitation in AI deployments, aligned with GDPR and UK Data Protection Act.

7. Citizen engagement and trust-building

- Institutionalise regular citizen consultations at national and regional levels to capture evolving public sentiment
- Establish citizen panels or advisory councils on AI policing to provide continuous input into governance.
- Ensure citizen consultations comprise a comprehensive spectrum of citizen demographics and capture benefit expectations as well as concerns.
- Incorporate youth perspectives into AI accountability debates, recognising generational differences in trust.

8. Capacity building and training

- Provide specialist AI literacy training for officers and staff, ensuring they understand system limits and ethical considerations.
- Develop cross-disciplinary training for oversight bodies (law, ethics, data science, human rights).
- Build a central AI in Policing Knowledge Hub for sharing best practices, red flags, and audit results across UK police forces.

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The citizen consultation was conducted as an anonymous online survey between April and June 2025. It targeted the general UK population, across all 4 UK nations, with a starting age of 14 years. The recruitment was conducted by panel provider Qualtrics.
Funding: UKRI/RAI UK AI IA091 Grant Ref: EP/Y009800/1 – AIPAS (AI Accountability for Policing and Security)
Ethics approval: ER76037114

Sample description

The citizen consultation collected 10,114 reactions.

Coverage across regions and nations

- England: 7,028
  - Greater London: 1,349
  - Northern England (North West, North East, Yorkshire, the Humber): 1,987
  - Mid-England (West Midlands, East Midlands, East of England): 1,951
  - Southern England (South West, South East): 1,741
- Scotland: 1,556
- Wales: 1,019
- Northern Ireland: 541

Gender: Female: 51.9%; Male: 47.5%; Non-binary/other: 0.5%; Prefer not to say: 0.2%

Ethnicity: White: 80.1%; Black: 9.8%; Asian: 5.2%; Mixed ethnicity: 3.1%; Other: 1.5%; Prefer not to say: 0.3%

Age: 14-17 years: 5.7%; 18-24 years: 19.0%; 25-34 years: 16.6%; 35-44 years: 15.4%; 45-54 years: 16.0%; 55-64 years: 14.4%; 65-75 years: 9.4%; 75+ years: 3.5%; Prefer not to say: 0.1%

Self-description as a member of a group that is discriminated against by the police: Yes: 11.2%; No: 78.9%; Unsure: 6.6%; prefer not to say: 3.3%

Additional factors assessed

- Educational attainment
- Voting preference
- Work history
- Knowledge of AI and UK law
- Crime victimisation experience
- Trust in police and institutions
- Measures to take in case of AI failures (open text)

List of the 32 AI deployment scenarios

Scenario 1. Reviewing evidence and producing a case file is traditionally done manually by police officers. Your local police force uses an AI tool to automatically review the evidence and to produce a case file summary. The AI-generated case summaries are used by solicitors to decide whether to charge someone with a crime.

Scenario 2. To prevent small boat crossings from France to UK, UK Border Forces use AI sensors to flag up potential crossings in France. The sensors automatically notify UK border forces to intercept the boats and prevent them from landing in the UK.

Scenario 3. UK Border Police use AI to investigate the online footprint of all foreign citizens who come through British borders. The automatic scan flags up any indications of criminal/terrorist activities or communication online to identify potential hostile intent against UK and impact decisions whether a person can enter the country.

Scenario 4. Your local police force uses an AI-driven Robot Community Policing Officer to autonomously patrol your neighbourhood and areas associated with high crime. It the robot identifies a potentially critical situation, it will contact the closest police station or other emergency services.

Scenario 5. Your local police are aware that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation. A fast-food restaurant handed over CCTV pictures of a meeting between the child and an unknown adult. The police places smart cameras in the area that scan people's faces to find the adult involved.

Scenario 6. Investigating child sexual abuse material causes psychological stress and mental health issues in many officers. Your local police force deploys an AI tool to scan images/videos of child sexual abuse. The AI tool automatically assigns grades of severity of the abuse safeguarding officers from viewing the material.

Scenario 7. AI tools are increasingly used to generate large quantities of child sexual abuse material. This poses a problem for police, as they do not know whether the children, they are trying to identify, are real or AI generated. Your local police introduce an AI tool to identify whether an image/video is AI generated, so police can focus their efforts on helping real victims.

Scenario 8. Your local police force uses an AI tool that scans social media for signs of impending terrorist attacks in your city. The AI creates alerts for police to start direct surveillance of suspects, or in case of an immediate threat, police receive an automatic request to arrest them.

Scenario 9. Your local police force uses an AI tool that scans social media for signs of serious and organised crime. This includes people advertising drugs for sale, evidence of firearms use and human trafficking. AI helps the police to identify the perpetrators and to safeguard victims.

Scenario 10. An airport uses an AI trained on gait analysis to identify unusual behaviours, such as nervousness, hesitation or erratic movements that could indicate terrorist intent. Any warning markers are sent to airport security and police to initiate a response.

Scenario 11. Your local police force is investigating a burglary. Very little evidence has been recovered, but forensics officers identified a partial fingerprint. The police force uses AI to enhance the print to then search for matches in a national fingerprint database.

Scenario 12. A police force uses an AI tool to analyse DNA samples from cold cases. The AI tool uses predictive analysis to reconstruct missing sequences of partial DNA profiles, which the police force uses to search for matches in a national DNA database.

Scenario 13. Your local police force uses an AI tool to speed up their investigations into digital devices such as mobile phones. When a phone is seized from a suspect, the AI searches the phone to quickly assess location data, images, records of phone calls and the content of text communication that may be relevant to the case.

Scenario 14. Your local police force uses an AI tool to scan online profiles of local groups for evidence of hate speech (e.g., violence against vulnerable communities or people based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation). The AI identifies individuals that seem to post hate speech and flags them for further investigation.

Scenario 15. AI-generated content of politicians, actors and other celebrities (deepfakes) are being used to spread false information and encouraging public disorder or hate. Your local police force uses AI investigation tools to automatically identify the creators of AI generated deepfake videos to prevent further spread of disinformation.

Scenario 16. The courts use AI to speed up the justice process. The AI decides whether charged suspects should be bailed by the court or be remanded in prison, and also calculates sentences for those found guilty.

Scenario 17. The Home Office deploys an AI to speed up decisions regarding early release of prisoners. The AI reviews applications made by prisoners and decides, whether they can serve the remainder of their sentence in the community.

Scenario 18. The Home Office uses an AI-based visa and immigration system to make decisions more quickly. The AI automatically assesses visa and settlement applications and decides on rejection of unsuitable applicants.

Scenario 19. UK security services use AI to detect insider threats to the security of national infrastructure. They specifically aim to protect water and electricity supply as well as nuclear reactions from foreign hostile actors.

Scenario 20. Your local police force uses an AI system to automate the purchase of uniforms and similar items to free up police time. The AI system identifies low stock levels, assesses the suitability of an item offered for sale and directly submits a purchase order to the company.

Scenario 21. Before a demonstration, your local police use AI capabilities to monitor social media feeds for signs of potential intent of violence or crimes. People who are flagged up are prevented from joining the protest.

Scenario 22. During a demonstration, your local police use AI-based sensors to automatically identify locations where unrest may break out and lead to violence. If the sensors detect potentially problematic patterns, the AI system automatically direct police resources to these areas.

Scenario 23. Your local police force uses an AI system to take emergency 999 calls. The AI interacts with the caller and decides whether and when to dispatch response officers.

Scenario 24. A case of shoplifting at a large supermarket in your area has been reported to the police. The stolen items are worth just under £100. The supermarket has handed over pictures of its surveillance camera to your local police force. The police run AI-based facial recognition on the pictures to identify potential suspects.

Scenario 25. A disused warehouse in your area is suspected to be used to store both weapons and drugs for an organised crime group. A nearby surveillance camera has captured a facial image of an individual frequently leaving with packages. The police set up an AI-based live facial recognition system to identify the person in real time.

Scenario 26. When on the beat, officers in your local police force use smart glasses that access information about people on the street in real-time. If the AI flags up concerns about a person, the officers initiate a stop-and-search.

Scenario 27. Your local police force uses an AI system to take non-emergency 101 calls. The AI interacts with the caller and provides advice to their queries.

Scenario 28. Police training programs in your local police utilize AI to generate realistic training scenarios. Police students learn through interaction with highly convincing AI-controlled virtual witnesses, victims, or suspects.

Scenario 29. Your local police force uses an AI-assisted system while interviewing suspects. The AI analyses words, micro-expressions and tone of voice of suspects to assess credibility and to provide investigators with guidance for questioning.

Scenario 30. Your local police force uses an AI system to scan social media profiles of police officers. The AI automatically flags up officers potentially acting disproportionately or exhibiting racist, discriminatory, or otherwise problematic behaviour.

Scenario 31. Your local police force uses AI to analyse police records, social media and publicly available data for indications of domestic violence to recommend preventive interventions for potential victims.

Scenario 32. Your local police force deploys automated, AI-controlled police vehicles that autonomously patrol areas and independently identify and report suspicious activities, traffic violations and accidents.

CONTACT

CENTRIC

CENTRIC (Centre of Excellence in Terrorism, Resilience, Intelligence and Organised Crime Research) is a multi-disciplinary and end-user focused Centre of Excellence for end-user driven innovations in the field of security. The global reach of CENTRIC links both academic and professional expertise across a range of disciplines providing unique opportunities to progress groundbreaking research. The mission of CENTRIC is to provide a platform for researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, and the public to focus on applied security research.

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