Glasgow City Council use of High level Video Analytics-Suspect Search

1. High Level Video Analytics -Software functionality

Suspect Search (renamed Person Search for Glasgow) is a high level Video Analytic which will allow CCTV operators to locate individuals who are reported as missing, vulnerable, or involved in crime and antisocial behaviour within a quicker timeframe. The search engine utilises images or descriptions to allow the search engine to provide possible matches and route information of the individuals concerned. It does not use facial recognition, emotional recognition and is not linked to any police intelligence databases.

No new or additional cameras have been installed for the use of this software.

The media reports are incorrect as the system was upgraded in 2014 although as noted below we have not yet commenced operational use of the system.

The high level Video Analytic application is a piece of software with a search engine which can be installed on a camera and will work in the background. Glasgow will only install Person Search on a limited number of cameras at any one time. The software runs in the Smart Video Recorder (SVR), analyses the video, and generates a special human signature that is saved for each object in the Metadata Processing Centre (MPC) which is a database.

The signatures which are based on body image, clothing colours and textures are written per channel to a repository/database, which in line with all Glasgow City Council public space CCTV data retention requirements are deleted after 14 days. Images collated are not new or different images but images which are already being recorded live by the Public Space CCTV system.

When we need to search for an individual an image can be selected in a number of ways:

1. Select a reference image/person by retrieving a person's image from the CCTV system (if seen on camera)
2. Upload a photo of the person (e.g. a missing person) - this becomes the reference image
3. Create an image with the built-in composite tool (known as an avatar).
Based on the reference image selected, the application will suggest the best matches based on the image from the cameras selected. The operator can then screen the results to see if the required person/image appears in any given match.

Search is not based on facial recognition but characteristics such as full body image, textures, colours and any unique characteristics (hat/bag etc.).

The Video Analytic can help with:

- **Improved event analysis** - Person Search could be very valuable for post-event analysis of an incident. We will be able to quickly extract important information from video recordings by reconstructing a person’s paths to gain a better understanding of what happened.
- **Improve incident response** - dramatically improve support for emergency services’ actions and results in critical situations such as searching for a lost child or missing person
- **Prevent criminal activity** - Quickly detect the location of a suspicious person and identify their potential movements to prevent potential further criminal activity.

2. **Tracking capability**

The application does not provide real time tracking capability as there will always be a time delay (although the time delay is short and for purposes of privacy impact assessment is being treated as permitting quasi-real time activity). The system also does not have tag and track type capability. Once a reference image has been identified as outlined in section 1 the operator if required can see a possible route of the person’s movement on a map interface. This again is subject to the reference image and the system’s ability to recognise the images based on the characteristics highlighted in section 1. This aspect only works if the reference image/person actually walks past a CCTV camera with Video Analytics enabled, otherwise there is no way to locate the person or plot any route on a map. It should be noted that day to day Public Space Operations will routinely require operators, without the benefit of video analytic software, to monitor and follow individuals who may be involved in or suspected of being involved in some form of criminality. Operators will also from a public reassurance and safety perspective require to monitor and follow individuals who may be acting in a suspicious manner. These are day to day operations for a CCTV control room.

3. **Information sharing - Police Scotland**

When Police Scotland require to use the Person Search software It is considered that the functionality of Person Search is such that its use could readily constitute or amount to the conduct of covert directed surveillance, with the attendant risk that such use could potentially breach the rights of the person or persons being searched for under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and also the Article 8 rights of those whose images are inadvertently captured as “collateral intrusion”. Given that Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland are both public authorities for purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998, such non-compliant use
would represent a breach of section 6 of that Act, and also potentially infringe a number of the Data Protection Principles (i.e. it would be unfair and unlawful processing and collect excessive personal data).

Pre-planned use of Person Search

It is the council’s intention that any pre-planned use of Person Search should be classed as directed surveillance and accordingly this will need to be properly authorised in terms of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (“RIPSA”). There are however some limited exceptions to this presumption, described below.

Directed surveillance undertaken by or on behalf of GCC requires to be approved by an authorised GCC Investigations Manager in accordance with the Council’s Policy and Guidelines on Directed Surveillance. At this time we do not anticipate making much, if any, use of RIPSA powers in relation to Person Search.

Any directed surveillance undertaken by Police Scotland requires Police Scotland to evidence to GCC senior officers that the activity has been properly authorised by Police Scotland under RIPSA. Directed surveillance undertaken by any other public authority able to exercise RIPSA powers will be subject to a similar process of confirming that the activity has been duly authorised under RIPSA by that body (or under RIPA in the case of UK bodies such as HMRC).

It should be noted in each case that RIPSA authorisation is only required where the activity is in connection with the purposes set out in RIPSA, i.e. for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder; in the interests of public safety; or for the purpose of protecting public health. Use of Person Search for other purposes, such as to locate a missing person where no criminality is suspected, does not require RIPSA authorisation even when pre-planned; this is discussed under “Other uses of Person Search” below.

Unplanned use of Person Search

Person Search can be used without RIPSA authorisation in the following circumstances: Immediate response to events – Person Search technically searches stored images rather than live feeds, although as noted above the time lag is very short. Using Person Search is in effect an extra pair of eyes, and using it to locate someone being sought in connection with a real-time incident does not require prior authorisation. This scenario would include near-past searches where there was still a possibility that the person in question was still in the area, e.g. if a crime is reported which occurred off-camera but the suspect was reported to be heading in the direction of the area within the CCTV footprint.

Other uses of Person Search

There are some other situations where Person Search might be used in circumstances where it is planned in advance but it would not be appropriate to seek
a RIPSA authorisation. Some examples of this would be in using the system to locate a missing person sometime after their disappearance (meaning it would not count as an immediate reaction to events) or trace the movements of a deceased person prior to their death.

4. **System Owner**

System owner is Glasgow City Council.

Data Controller is Glasgow City Council. CCTV footage copied to another agency (such as Police Scotland) is considered to be under the control of that other agency from the point of transfer. Data transfer to other agencies involves creation of a copy of the footage and the copied footage cannot itself be analysed using Person Search. (The original instance of the data would be retained within the CCTV management system for the standard 14 days and could be analysed using Person Search during this period).

5. **Timescales**

The Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is currently being finalised. Once it has been finalised and approved internally it will be shared with the Information Commissioner’s Office for their prior approval in terms of GDPR Article 36. A go live date will only be set once we have the ICO’s approval for the operational deployment of the technology.

Glasgow City Council
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