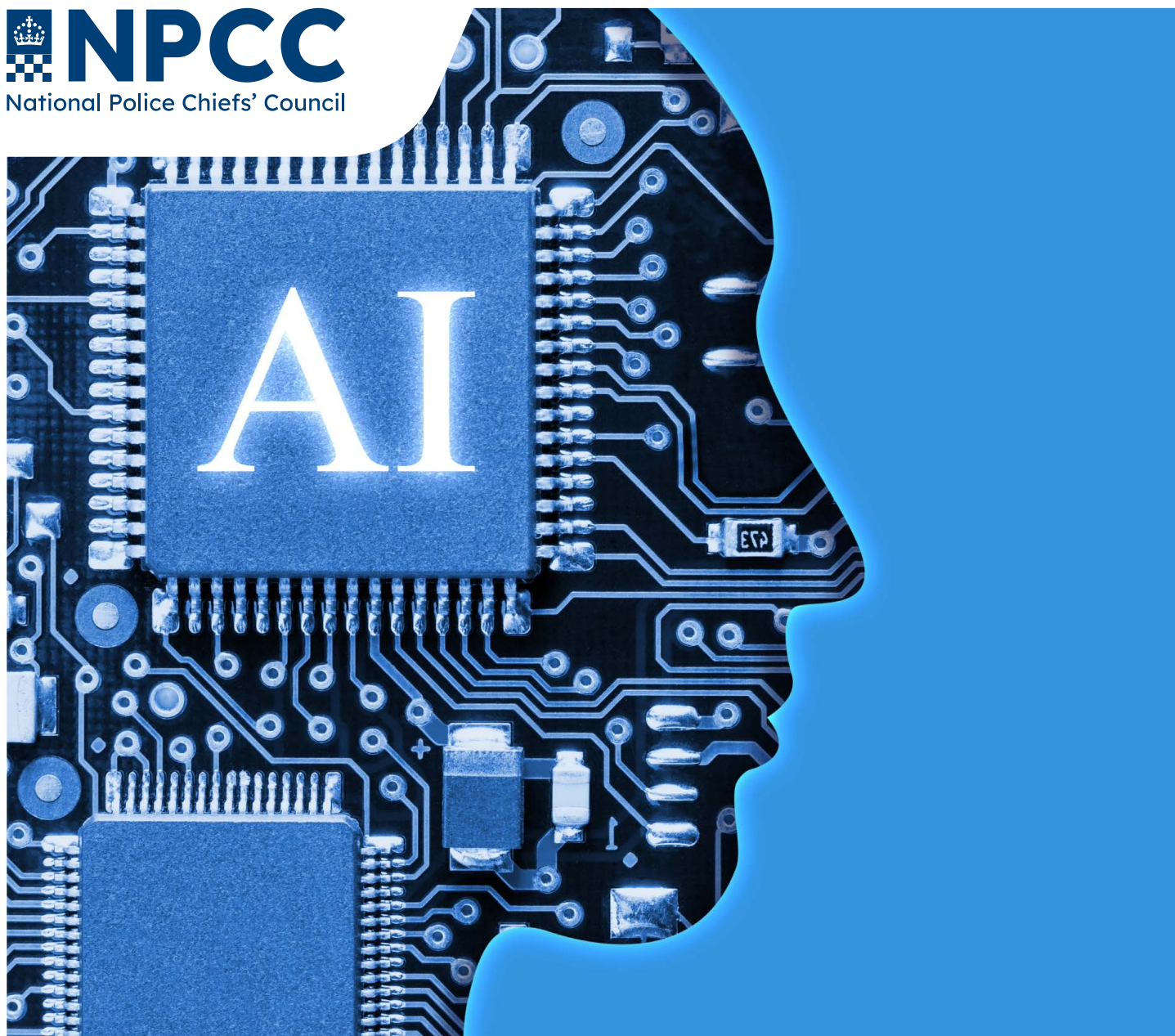




Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy

Keeping the public safe from the criminal misuse of AI; deploying ethical, transparent and ambitious AI to improve policing.

The NPCC's delivery of the AI strategy will ensure UK policing is ambitious in the deployment of AI that reflects our ethics and values. By harnessing the benefits of AI and deploying AI that reflects the best evidence, UK Policing will become more efficient and productive, meaning that we are better at meeting the needs of our communities and protecting them from the criminal use of AI.



Vision Statement

Our ambition is to establish UK policing as a leader in applied responsible AI. Deploying well designed, rigorously tested and evidence-based AI will make UK policing more effective at preventing, detecting and investigating crime, improve public engagement, and increase police productivity. It will also improve our ability to respond to the criminal misuse of AI.

Executive summary

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) AI Strategy outlines a framework for integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into UK policing to enhance public safety, operational efficiency, and increase trust within communities. The strategy is driven by a commitment to deploying AI responsibly, ethically, and transparently, ensuring it aligns with the values and legal standards of UK policing, aligning into the recently published NPCC AI Covenant.

AI's potential to transform policing is immense, offering advanced tools for crime prevention, decision-making, and resource allocation. However, this comes with challenges, including ethical considerations, privacy concerns, and the threat of the criminal use of AI. The strategy emphasises that while AI can significantly improve policing, it must be balanced with considered governance, public accountability, and adherence to ethical principles.

Key principles guiding the AI strategy include ensuring value for money, lawfulness, transparency, explainability, responsibility, accountability, robustness, and evidence-led practices. These principles are adapted from the Police AI Covenant, which serves as the foundation for how AI technologies should be deployed and how public engagement should be conducted. These will support UK policing to drive forward the adoption of ambitious technology, whilst maintaining the highest standards.

Governance and oversight are central to the strategy, with a multi-tiered approach involving a National Delivery Board, Agile Working Groups, and a national Strategic Independent Advisory Function. These entities will ensure that AI deployment is both responsible and effective, with input from experts across various fields. The AI portfolio sits under the National Science and Innovation board within the Science and Innovation Coordination Committee.

The strategy outlines key deliverables for 2024-2027, including the establishment of a national AI lab, guidance for forces on building local capability and how to effectively evaluate AI technologies to understand impact. These initiatives aim to position UK policing as a leader in applied, responsible AI, driving innovation while maintaining public trust and safety.

In summary, the NPCC AI Strategy is an ambitious roadmap for integrating AI into UK policing, with a strong emphasis on ethical deployment, public engagement, and the prevention of criminal misuse of AI technologies. The strategy seeks to make UK policing more effective, efficient, and responsive to the evolving challenges and opportunities posed by AI.



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1. Introduction to AI in policing

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative branch of computer science concerned with creating systems that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence. These tasks include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and language understanding. AI is an umbrella term that covers various technologies, such as machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

While AI has been instrumental in driving innovation across numerous fields, it also presents challenges and ethical considerations related to privacy, security, and the future of work, which have specific relevance to policing. Furthermore, AI also provides criminals with a new tool with which to offend, such as creating explicit sexual deepfakes, illegal false communications using voice cloners or deploying AI bots to automate offending behaviour.

AI has the potential to provide unprecedented opportunities for enhancing operational efficiency and decision-making in policing. The AI Covenant, published by the NPCC in October 2023 outlines and establishes the police's commitment to developing, adapting and using AI across all forces in an open, transparent and accountable way whilst also achieving value for money. This is a key tenet of the NPCC AI strategy, which will drive forward better service to the public.

Adopting AI responsibly will support officers and staff by streamlining processes and improving efficiency.

The AI strategy is focused on providing the clarity for UK policing on how to deliver responsible AI whilst supporting UK Policing with the skills to deal with the growing criminal use of AI. This strategy outlines a structured approach to implementing AI technologies across UK policing, adhering to ethical principles, and fostering public trust.

AI models should contribute positively and proportionally to preventing and detecting crime, increasing opportunities for effectiveness and upholding fairness in the criminal justice system. AI can enhance policing by providing advanced analytical tools that improve decision-making, resource allocation, and crime prevention strategies, ultimately leading to safer communities.

2. Portfolio Aims

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in policing represents a transformational shift with the potential to enhance public safety, improve operational effectiveness and efficiency, and if implemented well, foster deeper community trust. The portfolio will focus on the key deliverables in this strategy, which outlines some key stepping stones for the deployment of AI technologies within UK policing, focusing on innovation balanced by ethical considerations and public accountability. It will deliver guidance and guardrails for forces on how they should deliver AI technologies and how to do this effectively. It will secure funding and services on behalf of UK policing and plans to provide sustainable national AI capabilities, working with key partners in the ecosystem to establish this.

2.1 Ethos

The AI portfolio will support UK policing to deploy AI across the sector. It will focus on proven AI capability and test emerging opportunities, delivering a process that supports with the move to large scale deployment, integration and productivity. The portfolio will do this through being agile, having expert tactical knowledge and support the experimental deployment of AI technologies. It will collaborate effectively with the public and private sectors, working closely with academia to ensure that AI tools deployed will be tested rigorously and their impact tracked empirically. This will enable greater innovation that will put UK policing at the forefront of testing AI. It will become the centre of excellence for the wider NPCC committees to consult with, enabling policing to become an intelligent customer for the technology sector. It will work collaboratively across the policing landscape to provide guidance on how forces and committees can develop the building blocks to deliver capability. It will work closely with the Home Office when it comes to matters of direct central government funding for AI in policing and changes to legislation to both enable police use of AI and to respond to criminal misuse.

3. Principles

The following guiding principles have been adapted from the Police AI Covenant, which sets out how policing should deploy AI technologies and how we should engage with our communities. This document is central to this strategy.



Value for money

Delivering value for money is key to the NPCC AI strategy. The AI landscape is complex and the NPCC will support UK policing to better understand the changing nature of AI technologies, enabling UK Policing to become a more intelligent customer. This will lead to more sustainable procurement and drive value for money for the UK taxpayer.

Accountability

The NPCC will support UK policing to upskill our staff to understand the importance of setting clear accountability for the outcomes of AI systems, ensuring all personnel involved in their deployment are adequately trained.

Lawfulness

The NPCC will drive standards to ensure AI technologies that are adopted by UK policing adhere to existing legal frameworks, data protection regulations, and privacy standards. It will work collaboratively with government officials and partners to ensure legislation reflects the growing threats associated with AI.

Robustness

The NPCC will support UK policing to ensure it adopts AI solutions that are thoroughly assessed for accuracy, fairness, and an absence of bias, ensuring they are suitable for their intended applications.

Responsibility

The NPCC will support UK policing to build expert AI knowledge so that outcomes and impact of deployments are effectively tracked, minimising bias and ensuring human oversight of decision-making.

Transparency

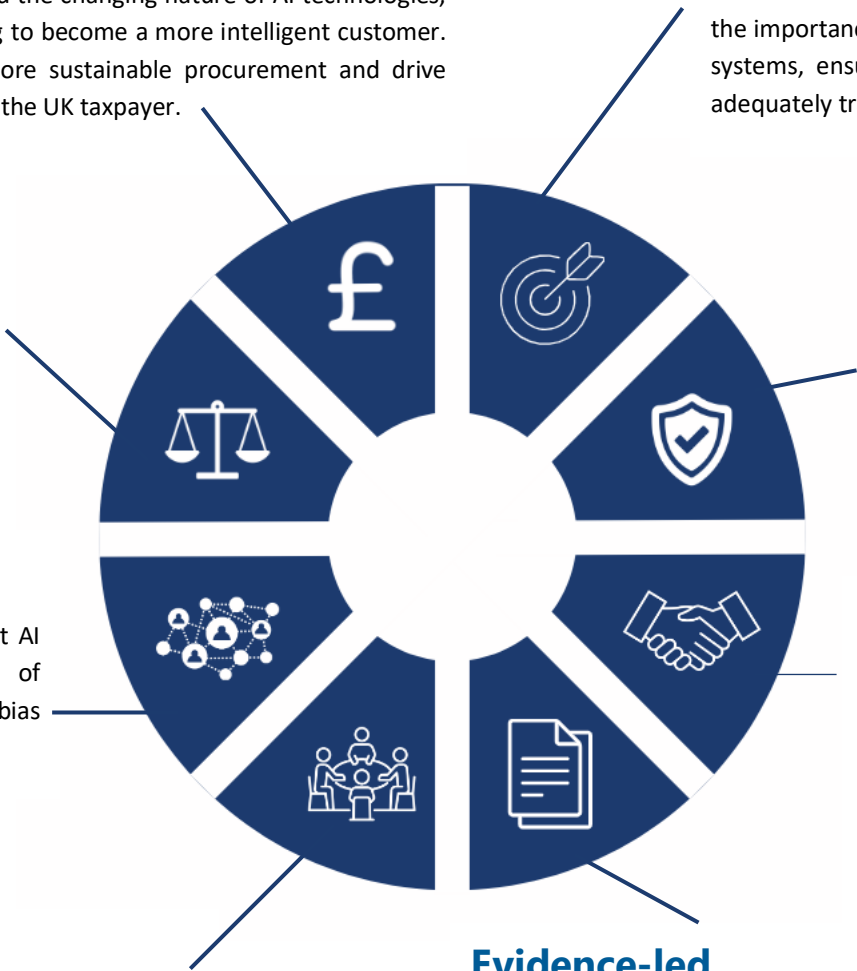
The NPCC will commit to openly communicating the purposes, capabilities, and limitations of AI technologies, ensuring the public is informed and engaged in the adoption process. Designing an effective feedback loop will enhance transparency and we will support all UK policing forces to do the same, promoting clarity and consistency.

Explainability

The NPCC will support UK policing with guidance to invest in systems that offer clear and understandable explanations of their outputs, particularly when used in decision-making processes affecting individuals or communities.

Evidence-led

The NPCC will support UK policing to implement AI technology that has already been academically and rigorously tested, through partnerships with universities and other forces. If this not available, then the NPCC will conduct academic trials that will enhance the transparency and trust in policing.



4. Innovation

For the portfolio to achieve its vision statement and for UK policing to become a leader in the deployment of ethical AI, innovation will be key. Engagement with the private sector and academia will be fundamental aspect of this. Bottom-up innovation will also be key, although it will be important to de-duplicate activity and ensure police forces are able to learn from one another. The portfolio will seek to use tried and tested methodology, which will foster innovation and discussion.

5. Communication and Engagement

The portfolio holder will be responsible for providing clarity on the direction of the use of AI in UK policing. A communications plan will be developed that will be shared with the NPCC and Chief Constables' Council. This will focus on opportunities to explain the use of AI in policing and to articulate how the principles are being applied to deliver improvements for our communities.

6. Responsible AI

The AI portfolio is keen to build on some of the successes in AI Ethics that have come from the Home Office and in the policing context, from the West Midlands Police ethics committee.

Policing by consent is central to UK Policing and it is essential that AI technologies are deliver in line with this. The portfolio will engage with key stakeholders, including with academia, to deliver responsible AI. This will be broader than solely ethics, which will remain the central tenet, but also consider technical, statistical, legal and operational consideration of deploying AI technologies.

The portfolio will deliver a framework for forces to adopt, working closely with NPCC committees, Chief Constables' Council and government departments to enhance consistency in approaches.



7. Priorities

Enhanced productivity

• It is essential for UK policing to make informed decisions on the types of AI it deploys to enhance productivity and deliver more for less and that this deployment reflects the principles outlined in this strategy and the AI covenant. Potential areas of focus are:

1. Tools to enhance staff productivity, which may include LLMs or other off the shelf products.
2. The development of consistency in how UK policing can adopt natural language processing and computer vision, providing guardrails and consistency.
3. Support the widescale adoption of RPA.

Using AI to tackle crime and harm

• AI has the potential to make UK policing far more effective at identifying, investigation and detecting crime. If delivered well, in line with the principles set out in this strategy, it will deliver significant benefits for our communities. It will do this through the following non-exhaustive list of technologies:

1. Through machine learning and algorithmic tools identifying those most likely to offend and seek to prevent this from taking place.
2. Through computer vision – e.g. facial recognition assisting in identifying suspects from imagery taken through CCTV, body worn video, or ANPR.
3. Through natural language processing analysing large volumes of data to identify threats or criminal activity.
4. Through algorithmic tools combining data sets to identify risk more effectively and to support better informed decision-making.

Countering the criminal threat from AI

• The threat from the criminal use of AI is already here and growing, with prominent examples including fraud, cyber, child sexual abuse material and intimate image abuse. It is essential for UK policing to become an intelligent customer and deliver a consistent response to this.

1. Technology to support police to respond to the changing threat, including R&D on deepfake detection to support with investigations and minimise the threat and risk caused by deepfakes and misinformation.
2. Support the Home Office to ensure legislation keeps up with the threat – this includes updating criminal offences, and ensuring AI companies play their part by designing out crime and reducing downstream demands on policing.
3. Monitor current and emerging AI threats to inform policing, government, and wider response.

8. Governance and Oversight

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of AI, the ecosystem that has sat around this technology is complex. A key ambition for the portfolio is to provide clarity for UK policing on how these key stakeholders work together and who is responsible for what. Under the Science and Innovation Coordination Committee, the portfolio will report into the National Science and Innovation Board, whilst maintaining close relationships with the wider committee ecosystem. It will also work to the 2030 National Police Digital Strategy and closely with the Digital, Data and Technology Coordination Committee. It will focus on developing relationships with key portfolios such as CDAP, and other key stakeholders such as the Police Productivity Centre, the Office of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor and key officials in the Home Office. A key deliverable for 2024/2025 will be to deliver a landscape review that provides this clarity.

8.2 AI Portfolio Governance

The portfolio requires expert knowledge in all areas of AI. It recognises that AI threats and opportunities are cross-cutting across nearly every NPCC portfolio and does not seek to take away the autonomy from committee chairs, nor the expertise that advise them. The AI portfolio seeks to bring in experts in AI who can advise on the threats and opportunities associated with AI. It will do this through the following tiers of governance.

- **National Delivery Board.** This will be chaired by the portfolio holder and drive strategic clarity and national policy. It will be responsible for signing off policing AI funding and assessing performance. Attendance at this will be diverse but will include attendance of individuals developing AI technologies, experts from different fields as well as key individuals from UK policing, the Home Office, NPCC Committees and, amongst others, the College of Policing. The board will report into the National Science and Innovation Board, which in turn reports into the Science and Innovation Coordination Committee.
- **Agile Working Groups.** The Board will seek to deliver rapidly to keep pace with the emerging technologies. It will commission pieces of work and stand up working groups of experts that will report back to the board on progress.
- **Strategic Independent Advisory Function.** The portfolio will work closely with academics to design a process that helps to deliver responsible AI that is scrutinised in a way that delivers against the covenant and enhances public confidence.

8.3 Local Governance

The AI portfolio will use the regional research and innovation network that has been set up under the Science and Innovation Coordination Committee. This will provide consistency and focus on innovation. It will support forces to develop their own internal governance structures that comply with the [AI Covenant](#) and best practice surrounding the deployment of responsible AI.

9. Success criteria and outcomes

Success for the NPCC AI Strategy will be measured by several key criteria, which include the effective integration of AI technologies across UK policing that demonstrably enhances operational efficiency, crime prevention, and public safety.

Outcomes will include the establishment of a robust AI governance structure, the successful deployment of AI tools that are transparent, accountable, and ethically sound and the delivery of peer-reviewed studies that show clear impact and the creation of a national AI lab.

Additionally, success will be reflected in increased public trust in the use of AI by the police, evidenced by independent research, as well as the development of capabilities that counter the criminal use of AI effectively.

Ultimately, the strategy aims to position UK policing as a global leader in responsible AI deployment, driving innovation while upholding the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability.



8. Key Deliverables

2024 – 2025

- Established AI governance structure.
- Guidance on responsible AI at a national and local level.
- Scoping of a national AI lab that delivers increased national capability.
- Deliver a conference that showcases current and potential AI use cases.
- Development of a communications plan that focuses on explaining the usages of AI in policing.
- Guidance for forces on what will be done nationally and what should be done locally.
- Guidance for forces on effective evaluation of AI.
- Mapping out of the ecosystem to provide greater understanding of the landscape and the pipeline to delivery.
- Work with the College of Policing to support a skills audit for all roles across policing with particular focus on investigators, digital and information.
- A list of successfully executed pilot AI projects with evaluation reports.
- An agreed algorithmic registration process.
- Established community engagement to enhance scrutiny of AI in policing.
- Development of an agile learning system that is open and transparent about challenges and seeks to deliver national learning.

2025 – 2026

- Tracking of commissioned AI technologies through the board.
- AI training package delivered for key roles.
- Creation of a centre of excellence for applied AI.
- Delivery of a national AI lab.
- Deliver an AI conference that showcases the impact AI has had on policing.

2026 – 2027

- Reassess approach to ensure UK policing is effective in embracing the benefits of responsible AI