

# Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Factsheet

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Northamptonshire Police - Investing in ANPR technology



## What is ANPR and how does it work?

ANPR consists of a camera that is linked to a computer. When a vehicle passes by the camera it records an image which is automatically 'read' by the computer and the vehicle registration is recorded.



## Who uses ANPR?

Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) including the police use ANPR. ANPR technology is also used by local authorities, the Department for Transport and some private companies.



## Why do the police use ANPR?

ANPR technology is used to detect, deter and disrupt criminality at local, regional and national levels, including tackling travelling criminals, organised crime groups and terrorists.



## What happens with my data?

Data we collect will be stored for one year unless it is involved in a criminal investigation, in which case we may need to retain it for longer. We will only access your data for a policing purpose in accordance with national standards, this is audited for compliance. Data gathered by Police is not supplied to private companies.



## Where and for how long are ANPR cameras used at a location?

Under the national standards there is strict criteria for deploying ANPR cameras. Cameras can only be deployed following a strategic assessment that identifies a need at that location. We are required to monitor this to ensure there is continued justification for the camera's deployment, should this change the device will be removed.



## How does ANPR assist the police?

ANPR is used to support the following police activities:

**Operational response** - If a vehicle of interest (VOI) passes a camera police officers can intercept and stop it, check it for evidence and, where necessary, make arrests.

**Intelligence** - Vehicle details can be circulated and as they pass an ANPR camera details are recorded for information to assist investigations.

**Investigations** - The record of all vehicles passing a specific camera may, in appropriate circumstances, be accessed for investigative purposes which could lead to the detection of offences.



## Do ANPR cameras detect speeding vehicles?

No, there are no links between the ANPR database and speed enforcement systems. However, the cameras can act as a visual deterrent to slow down motorists.



## Are ANPR cameras fixed or fitted in police vehicles?

Both. Fixed site ANPR cameras exist all across the UK. Vehicle mounted ANPR cameras can be used locally by officers as a result of local operational needs and incidents.



## Can ANPR cameras help my local area to become safer?

Absolutely. ANPR cameras allow officers to better police local areas. For example if your car is stolen or travelling criminals come into your area police are more likely to identify and locate them.