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10th February 2026

Dear Lord Clement-Jones,

Crime and Policing Bill: automated decision-making

During the Committee Stage debate on the Crime and Policing Bill on 22nd January 2026, (see Hansard cols 452-457: [Crime and Policing Bill - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)), you asked an important question regarding the extent to which police officers are trained in the operation of Article 22 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and what assurance can be given about officers' knowledge of the rules on automated decision-making (ADM). I undertook to write with further detail, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so.

Let me start by clarifying that the UK GDPR does not apply to processing by law enforcement agencies for a law enforcement purpose. The vast majority of processing by the police will, instead, be carried out under Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018. As I'm sure you are aware, given your contribution to the debates on this issue, the relevant provisions in both the UK GDPR and Part 3 have now been amended following the commencement of section 80 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

You asked about training provided to the police. I can tell you that forces are required to employ a data protection officer who is responsible for ensuring that their force complies with data protection law, including ensuring appropriate, mandatory, training and guidance is in place for all staff, which reflects the recent changes. Other safeguards, such as the need for data protection impact assessments, will also apply where there is a high risk to the rights or freedoms of individuals, and this will further inform data protection officers in their approach to ensuring appropriate training is in place.

Moreover, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has produced guidance on the use of ADM under Part 3 available here: [Right not to be subject to automated decision-making | ICO](#) (they also plan to issue updated guidance in the Spring) Furthermore, you may recall that, during the Report Stage of the then Data (Use and Access) Bill in the House of Lords, the Government committed to introducing secondary legislation requiring the ICO to produce a Code of Practice on AI and ADM. The Code will provide guidance as to good practice for organisations in complying with data protection legislation when using personal data in AI and ADM.

The Government is also taking further steps to ensure responsible AI use in the police. Through Home Office funding to the NPCC AI portfolio, we have produced detailed national guidance on the responsible use of AI, made available through the NPCC AI Playbook and the AI Covenant, published on the College of Policing's website. All Chief Constables have signed the Covenant, which sets out clear principles for the transparent, responsible, and accountable use of AI in policing.

Importantly, the Covenant explicitly requires that AI outputs are not accepted uncritically and that forces must have processes to ensure that officers exercise independent professional judgement rather than rely on automated tools.

Further to the above, as part of the Police Reform White Paper, the UK Government is investing £115 million to enhance policing's capability to adopt AI safely and lawfully. A central pillar of this is Police.AI, a new national centre dedicated to supporting forces in responsible AI adoption. Police.AI will develop significantly enhanced operational guidance, practical support, and training for officers and leaders using AI tools, including understanding the limitations of AI systems, how bias may arise, and how to critically evaluate outputs as a human-in-the-loop. By providing this support nationally, Police.AI will help ensure consistent understanding and practice across all forces.

We are also establishing a public-facing registry of AI deployments in policing, which will set out, for each tool, its purpose, the risks identified, and the mitigations in place. This includes listing an accountable officer for each deployment and ensuring forces reflect carefully on the legal and ethical issues. This level of transparency is unprecedented internationally and reflects the seriousness with which we take public confidence in the use of AI.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that all AI use in policing, including in ADM, complies fully with data protection law, and that officers receive the training and support they need to fulfil those responsibilities.

I hope you find this letter helpful, and I would, of course, be happy to provide further information if useful.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Doocey, Baroness Neville-Rolfe and Lord Sandhurst and placing a copy in the library of the House.

Best wishes,

THE LORD KATZ MBE
Lord in Waiting (Government Whip)

Lord Clement-Jones
House of Lords