

# LEARNING THE LESSONS

Quick time bulletin 1    October 2008

## ANPR data - URGENT

### Key issue

The need to safeguard personal data related to the national Automatic Number Plate Recognition system.

#### Background

The IPCC is currently independently investigating the loss by a police force of personal data related to the national Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system. A considerable amount of sensitive data was lost and this has already attracted national media interest. It follows the recent high-profile loss of personal data by other agencies and is, understandably, a matter for public concern.

#### The loss of the ANPR data

Though the IPCC investigation is in its early stages, quick time learning has been identified that may benefit all forces and other ANPR users. The data concerned was lost on an unencrypted USB memory stick used to transfer ANPR data between a police station and police vehicle.

#### Quick time learning

Police forces and other ANPR users should consider and, if necessary, address the following matters in order to prevent the loss of data in similar circumstances:

#### *Technology*

1. The type of removable devices used to store ANPR data and enable its transfer between premises to ANPR-equipped vehicles.
2. The security of the above removable devices in terms of encryption and passwords and the potential for the data to be read by unauthorised persons, some of whom may have computer skills, were it to be lost.
3. The potential for removable devices with data stored on them to be lost at any time during the transfer between premises and ANPR-equipped vehicles, and the impact that any such loss would have on the force/organisation and the data subjects.



NPIA

4. How data that is to be physically transferred between premises and ANPR-equipped police vehicles is securely stored on premises when not in use.
5. The number of authorised portable removable devices in use to transfer ANPR between premises and ANPR-equipped vehicles. Their security, specification, record of movements and audit processes.
6. Compliance or otherwise with legislation - for example, the Data Protection Act and national and local guidelines, including guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office. Handling of ANPR data in accordance with guidance for handling Protectively Marked information.
7. The secure disposal of removable media that is no longer needed.

## People

8. The possibility of individuals using unauthorised personal removable devices to transfer ANPR data between premises and ANPR-equipped vehicles.
9. The potential for an unauthorised person, possibly with malicious intent, to obtain removable devices that hold sensitive ANPR data either from premises or during ANPR operations.
10. The adequacy of training for all staff involved in handling sensitive personal ANPR data.

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Learning the Lessons quick time bulletins are designed to disseminate learning identified in the course of conduct investigations that is too urgent to await the end of the investigation. Such investigations are carried out by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) or by police forces, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

This bulletin is issued by an inter-agency forum called the Learning the Lessons Committee. Its members are:

- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
- Association of Police Authorities (APA)
- HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
- The Home Office
- Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)
- National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

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