

Titre: Is Facial recognition an invasion of privacy

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Rowland Manthroe (reporter)

We are used to being watched; the eye to everywhere silently recording our every move.

Now something is different, facial recognition software can pick out persons of interest even on a crowded street.

Problem?

Yes according to this man. The claimant in the first case against the police use of facial recognition which starts today.

Complainant: Ed Bridges:

What happened is that I popped out from my office to get a sandwich at lunchtime and I was walking down the main pedestrian shopping street in Cardiff and there was a police van there.

There was no signage, no police officers giving out information so by the time you got close enough to see the words facial recognition technology on it, you'd already had your biometric data scanned and captured and that just struck me as a fundamental breach of my privacy as a law-abiding citizen.

Reporter:

Nobody at the 2017 Champions League Final gave permission for their faces to be scanned but South Wales police did so all the same.

Megan Goulding (Lawyer, Liberty)

They've been pioneering this technology on behalf of the government so they have government funding.

They've used it on over 50 occasions so it's a really important moment to stop and say: do we want this on our streets? And we say no.

Reporter:

No or yes, a decision is urgent because the facial recognition is coming fast.

Zak Doffman (CEO Digital Barriers)

So this 41 camera would be mounted as they all are on the police officers' uniforms.

Reporter

This company put their facial recognition software in body worn cameras.

It picks me up. No problem, even 200 meters.

The reason my face is recognized right now is because I've sent this company my photo but in the real world the photos will come from police and counterterrorism

so the big question for Civil liberties is not who makes the technology, it's who controls the database of photos.

Zak Doffman (CEO Digital Barriers)

It is a use of technology, the police want to use for the right reasons. They want to help keep the public safe. They want to take bad guys off the street and that shouldn't cause anyone any concern.

Reporter:

Who watches the Watchers?

The oldest question of justice needs a new answer for eyes that now have brains.