Home Office

sciencewise

UK Research and Innovation

Home Office AI in policing dialogue evaluation

Final evaluation report

Sophie Reid
Jan 2026

Table of Contents

1. Executive summary

This dialogue was commissioned by the Home Office, and it was co-funded by UKRI's Sciencewise programme. The project was led internally by the National Policing Capabilities Unit of the Home Office, and CoLab, the multi-disciplinary user-centred policy design team within Home Office. The research agency Thinks delivered the work as part of a call-off contract. This was the first time Home Office had commissioned a public dialogue process, with project objectives tied to learning about the process as well as findings.

On the smaller end of dialogues typically commissioned by Sciencewise, 58 people across three locations (Cardiff, Durham and London) took part in a series of two in-person workshops per location in February 2025 and engaged with written and video materials in a lightly moderated online space before each of the workshops. This totalled 10 hours of deliberations, plus time spent engaging online. Participants explored three use cases – call handling for 101 calls, summarising information, and predictive policing.

The dialogue has met four of its objectives and partially met a fifth. It has provided an understanding of the public's views and concerns regarding specific AI use cases in policing and has raised awareness of participatory methods within the Home Office (less so for police forces). At the time of writing, further public dialogue projects are being scoped, led by Home Office and delivered by Thinks. Although impact is still emerging, there are already examples of the outcomes of the dialogue being used to inform ongoing and future investment and policy development on the use of AI in policing. These include feeding into Spending Review submissions, and informing the development of a forthcoming policing-led process for transparency about AI use in policing (and the enforcement of this process). There are indirect links with other projects including PROBabLE Futures, the NPCC AI Portfolio and a CENTRIC survey of public attitudes, which represent further routes to impact for the dialogue or supporting evidence. The dialogue has helped identify and explore some trade-offs in the use of AI in policing, such as improvements in policing practice and outcomes alongside potential risks. It has had the side benefit of providing learning about what matters to the public about government communications on AI. Participants reported high levels of satisfaction with the process, praising the facilitation in particular, and they have greater awareness of the central concepts of policing, like policing by consent and operational independence. They also have greater awareness of what AI is, and how it might be used in a policing context, including what some of the benefits and risks are.

The dialogue has not fully met its objective to engage with and include 'sub-groups who may be more at risk of deleterious outcomes as a result of unrepresentative data potentially being used to create AI models, such as individuals from ethnic minority groups and women.' Actions towards this objective included a boosted sample approach for participant recruitment (which ensured participants from these groups were in the room), civil society representation on the Oversight Group and some stimulus inputs around bias. However, despite these, the dialogue process did not allow participants to meaningfully engage with the social justice aspect of the topic. Public deliberation on this topic remains at an early stage and this remains a gap to act on these findings alone.

Strengths of the dialogue included sustained participant attendance and the first set of online information provision, which ensured high levels of participant readiness for deliberation and made good use of in-person time. Quality tools and materials were created, although in practice these were inconsistently used and may have benefitted from being piloted. In general, the dialogue has been seen as a credible process by those involved or expected to use the results.

Weaknesses of the dialogue included a lack of participant interaction with specialists (especially the ability to ask questions to further their understanding) and a lack of provision for participant care initially (which was later addressed). Although facilitation was praised by participants, the use of tools, prompts and examples was very inconsistent between facilitators and the process relied too heavily on facilitators' own knowledge, who could have been better briefed and supported by specialist attendance. There was a lack of observers at the workshops, most disappointingly from the Oversight Group, reflective of a slight disengagement from some members of this group. The project team did a good job of honing the scope and content of the dialogue into the time available, but overall the dialogue was characterised by a lack of deliberation time, which affected the depth of discussion possible, how considered the prioritisation was, opportunities for movement and meaningful connections between locations.

A sense of experimentation characterised the project – of the first time speaking to the public about police uses of AI other than facial recognition; of new ways of working for Home Office teams (and internal advocacy for those); and of new partnerships and co-design methods for Thinks. At times, this experimentation (reflected in the range of objectives set for the dialogue) gave rise to slight tensions about what partners wanted from the dialogue project. Combined with a short project timeline and busy period for the delivery team, these tensions were not as well explored as they could have been, to ensure they could be productive.

Overall, given that public dialogue on police applications of AI is at an early stage, the dialogue (despite being on the smaller and shorter side of deliberative methods) makes an important contribution to identifying some of the factors which matter to the public when it comes to the ethical use of AI tools in policing. It would be interesting for future public dialogue to further test these using other use case examples (as they are developed), to systematically explore some of the factors affecting views in more detail. Crucially, there is also a gap remaining around the specific concerns, views and perspectives of minoritised groups, which future dialogues (and separate engagement projects) should seek to fill.

2. Context and background

About this report

This final evaluation report assesses the quality and impact of the *AI in policing* dialogue project, commissioned and funded by Home Office and UKRI's Sciencewise programme, and delivered by the specialist consultancy Thinks. It draws on data including direct observation of the workshops and project team meetings; interviews and surveys with participants and observers; and interviews with members of the project team, Oversight Group and wider stakeholders.

It follows a baseline evaluation report submitted in Jan 2025, which covered the context for the dialogue project, and an interim report submitted in Mar 2025 which covered the delivery of the dialogue workshops.

The report has seven sections, answering four main evaluation questions:

1. Context and background to the dialogue project
2. Did the dialogue meet its objectives?
3. What impact did the dialogue have on:
    a. Participants
    b. Home Office policy
    c. Wider policing
    d. Home Office use of deliberative methods?
4. How credible was the dialogue with those involved and those expected to use the results?
5. Has the dialogue met standards of good practice?
6. Costs and benefits
7. Lessons learnt

Quotations from interviews are used throughout the report, to illustrate the findings, with interviewees' permission. These are not attributed to named individuals.

Background to commissioning

The Home Office commissioned the dialogue, and it was co-funded by UKRI's Sciencewise programme. It was the first project as part of a call-off contract between Home Office and the research consultancy Thinks. The project was led internally by the National Policing Capabilities Unit of the Home Office, and CoLab, the multi-disciplinary user-centred policy design team within Home Office. (In this report I refer to the 'Home Office' project team as a whole, or CoLab or NPCU where more specificity is required.) Thinks led on the design, delivery and reporting of the dialogue, with CoLab taking a hands-on role in co-design.

This was the first time Home Office has commissioned a public dialogue process, with project objectives tied to learning about the process as well as findings.

Dialogue objectives

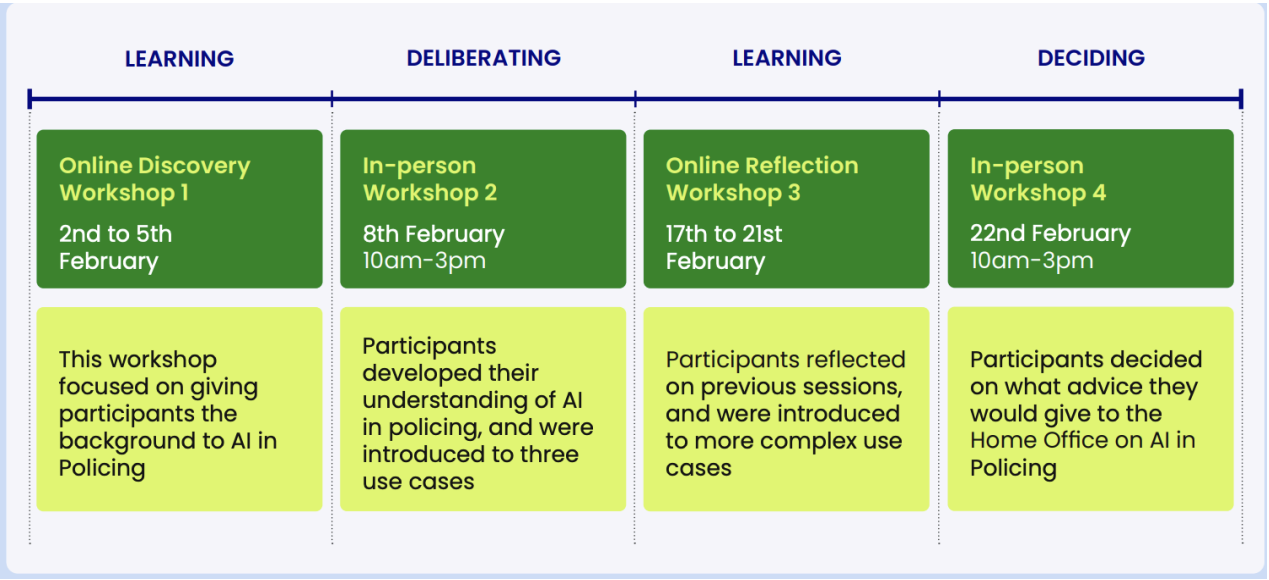
The objectives set for the dialogue were as follows:

1. Engaging a diverse and inclusive group of the public, including sub-groups who may be more at risk of deleterious outcomes as a result of unrepresentative data potentially being used to create AI models, such as individuals from ethnic minority groups and women.
2. Developing an understanding of the public's views and concerns regarding specific AI use cases in policing, including considerations regarding governance, monitoring, safety and accountability
3. Identifying and exploring trade-offs in the use of AI in policing, such as improvements in policing practice and outcomes alongside potential risks
4. Using the outcomes of the dialogue to inform ongoing and future investment and policy development on the use of AI in policing
5. Raising awareness of participatory methods within the Home Office and police forces

Dialogue overview

The dialogue project encompassed the following stages:

1. **Design of dialogue and materials** – informed by:
    a. **Topic review** – a rapid review of literature
    b. **Survey** – a UK representative survey of 1000 on attitudes to use of AI, including for use cases in policing, and trust in institutions
    c. **Oversight Group** – with a second meeting focused on scoping the 'framing question' for the dialogue
2. **Delivery of dialogue**
    a. **2x in-person workshops** in each of three locations (Durham, Cardiff and London) totalling 10 hours of in-person deliberation
    b. **Asynchronous engagement** via an online platform between workshops
3. **Analysis and reporting** – to produce a final dialogue report and short film



An **Oversight Group** (comprising 12 members and a Chair) was convened four times online throughout the project as part of the governance: at the outset; at scoping stage; at materials development stage; and following dialogue delivery. It included senior stakeholders from across policing, academia and civil society (see Appendix A for full list of OG members).

Policy overview

The Policing Productivity Review, of which the first report was published in 2023, set out a clear direction for the investment in and use of technology to increase the productivity of the police; a strategy promising to free up 38 million hours of police officers' time[1]. The report outlines the potential for technological innovation, including the use of AI, as a key enabler for change[2]. The team reviewed current AI uses such as automation of transcription, the use of chat bots to triage calls and automatic redaction of information in documents. The Review's authors recommended changes to funding structures to increase financial investment in technological innovation, and following the report, Sunak's Conservative government pledged £230 million towards improving productivity in policing, of which £65 million was new funding for technology and innovation. The Review also outlined an explicit role for the Home Office in creating a legislative and regulatory framework that 'enables implementation of technological innovation by policing', and to undertake communication with public and stakeholders to this end.

Additionally, the government's AI Opportunities Action Plan (published in January 2025) set out "a roadmap for government to capture the opportunities of AI to enhance growth and productivity and create tangible benefits for UK citizens". This positioned AI as central to "deliver step-change in public-service quality".

The dialogue is set within this context of a strong push towards the use of AI in policing and across the public sector, for efficiencies. At the same time, trust in the police is at an all-time low, both to solve crime[3] and to uphold ethical standards[4]. This threatens the Peelian principle of 'policing by consent' upon which policing in the UK is founded. Adoption of new technologies by the police is clearly of public interest, as new tools may give police greater powers. This adoption has so far taken place at a very localised level, with individual forces running pilots and prototype projects. These include for example the Harm Assessment Risk Tool used between 2016-22 by Durham Constabulary, which estimated likelihood of reoffending, or Humberside Police running a proof of concept in 2023 using an AI tool to support the triage of domestic violence calls. There are strongly

[1] This estimate has swelled to 60 million hours in later exploration work carried out by the cross-sector Review team, with the increase largely driven by the potential use of AI tools.
Source: Webinar: Policing Productivity Review with Alan Pughsley (Sept 2024)
[2] After the initial 12 month period, the Review team were asked to carry out further exploration into four other topic areas, of which AI was one.
[3] For example, a YouGov tracker poll in Dec 2024 saw 15% of respondents having 'no confidence at all' in the police's ability to deal with crime in their area and a further 36% having 'not very much confidence'
[4] Just over half (52%) of respondents to a Jan 2023 poll commissioned by thinktank More in Common say that they do not trust police officers.

critical voices within civil society who have scrutinised individual force's pilots of AI tools, including calling for a moratorium on predictive policing and biometric AI tools in policing until there is a more well-defined regulatory framework[5].

There is no primary legislation governing this fast-moving area of innovation. However, in 2023, a Covenant for Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Policing was endorsed by all members of the National Police Chief Council (NPCC). This set of key values includes transparency in the use of AI tools used by police. In June 2025, the NPCC published an AI Playbook. Along with the NPCC AI Strategy published in 2024, these three documents are the current guidance framework for police forces across the UK in exploring adoption of AI technologies and tools. There is also an Artificial Intelligence (Regulation) Bill, currently due to be scheduled for second reading in the House of Lords, which calls for various regulatory mechanisms for AI, including the creation of a new AI Authority (to, amongst other duties, implement a programme for meaningful, long-term public engagement about the opportunities and risks presented by AI).

Media coverage

Media coverage can affect the issues which are top-of-mind for dialogue participants and have an impact on participant awareness, the range of issues discussed and participants' relative priorities. Thinks scheduled the workshops concurrently in the three locations to mitigate any topical media coverage having a large impact on discussions in one location above the others.

In the period from December 2024 to February 2025 (i.e. the fieldwork period and the preceding two months), there were several media articles and news segments on the use of AI by police. There was no large-scale or long-running coverage which would have been likely to affect participant discussions. Coverage over the period (with a UK focus) included:

- two ITV news segments on the use of AI (especially AI-enabled search or facial recognition tools looking at CCTV footage) by Cumbria Police and the Met Police respectively, demonstrating the capabilities and, in the latter, hearing from campaign group Big Brother Watch on their concerns;
- an Independent article covering College of Policing CEO Andy Marsh's calls for greater investment and use of AI to prepare prosecution case files;
- a Times weekend feature on how AI is being used by policing and future opportunities
- a BBC article about an AI tool developed by the University of Surrey to identify knives and their origins;
- a series of BBC and Independent articles about trials using AI cameras to detect phone offences and drink driving used by Devon and Cornwall Police, by Essex Police, and by Humberside Police

Topic and scope

[5] The criminal justice charity Fair Trials for example, call for a ban on predictive policing tools on the grounds of bias driven by discriminatory data profiles. The #SafetyNotSurveillance coalition made up of 15 human rights, racial justice and technology organisations wrote to the Home Secretary in 2024 to ask for an outright ban on predictive policing and biometric surveillance systems on the basis that they are disproportionately used to target racialised, working class and migrant communities.

The dialogue design phase started with a rapid evidence review and a survey of 1,000 members of the UK public. Findings from the survey informed the sampling approach and selection of use cases for the dialogue. There was also a session to develop the following 'framing question' for the dialogue: 'How should AI be used (if at all) in policing?'

As a result of an ongoing and separate strand of engagement work by the Home Office's Data & Identity Directorate, facial recognition was excluded from the scope. Despite some concerns from the project team, participants accepted the rationale and this exclusion did not hinder participant discussions. Over the design process a longlist of AI use cases in policing was focussed down to three: call handling, data summarisation and predictive policing. Case studies were chosen on the basis of being varied points on a spectrum of expected controversy, and having live trials and examples to use. Project team members were broadly happy with the choice of case studies and how they provoked a range of discussions (more about case studies is discussed in the 'materials' section).

4. Did the dialogue meet its objectives?

The following table provides a summary of actions taken to meet each of the objectives, and key points from the evaluation findings. These are discussed in more detail across the subsequent chapters.

Objectives	How this was met, or not
1. Engaging a diverse and inclusive group of the public, including sub-groups who may be more at risk of deleterious outcomes as a result of unrepresentative data potentially being used to create AI models, such as individuals from ethnic minority groups and women.	58 people in three locations around the country took part. Boosted sample approach taken to recruitment, with quotas met for ethnically minoritised groups and gender balance. Younger groups were slightly underrepresented. Whilst on paper this objective was met, this sampling approach (and other methodological choices) were not enough to allow participants to meaningfully engage with the social justice aspect of the topic (see lessons learnt section for more discussion on this). There was a significant skew towards positive views of AI upon joining the dialogue; additional inputs were sourced at short notice to mitigate this.
2. Developing an understanding of the public's views and concerns regarding specific AI use cases in policing, including considerations regarding governance,	Online activities to provide key principles within policing context, followed by the two in-person workshops. Structure of use cases (building from simple to more complex versions) worked well to allow participants to engage with the topic. Accountability in particular highlighted as an area

monitoring, safety and accountability	where participants would have liked more time for their deliberations.
3. Identifying and exploring trade-offs in the use of AI in policing, such as improvements in policing practice and outcomes alongside potential risks	Decision to include further inputs exploring accuracy, bias and police accountability in the second workshop was essential in ensuring balance. Trade-offs explored to some extent through use cases (especially in their more complex version in second in-person sessions). Other facilitation tools less effective in exploring trade-offs, and inconsistently used by facilitators.
4. Using the outcomes of the dialogue to inform ongoing and future investment and policy development on the use of AI in policing	Impact still emerging but findings reported as useful, credible and confirmatory by policy makers. Findings were fed into funding decisions as part of the Spending Review. Forthcoming policing-led processes on transparency have been influenced by the findings of the dialogue. The dialogue has also provided a side benefit in understanding more about what the public want to know about AI from government communications. Findings have been referenced in law reform charity JUSTICE's Dec 2025 report on '*AI in Policing: International Lessons and Domestic Solutions'*, as a result of Oversight Group membership.
5. Raising awareness of participatory methods within the Home Office and police forces	Some observation of the workshops from wider Home Office (and especially CoLab) colleagues beyond the project team. Two internal sessions held within Home Office to talk about the method, following the workshops, both well attended. Future dialogue projects currently being scoped. Awareness of participatory methods within police forces is less apparent.

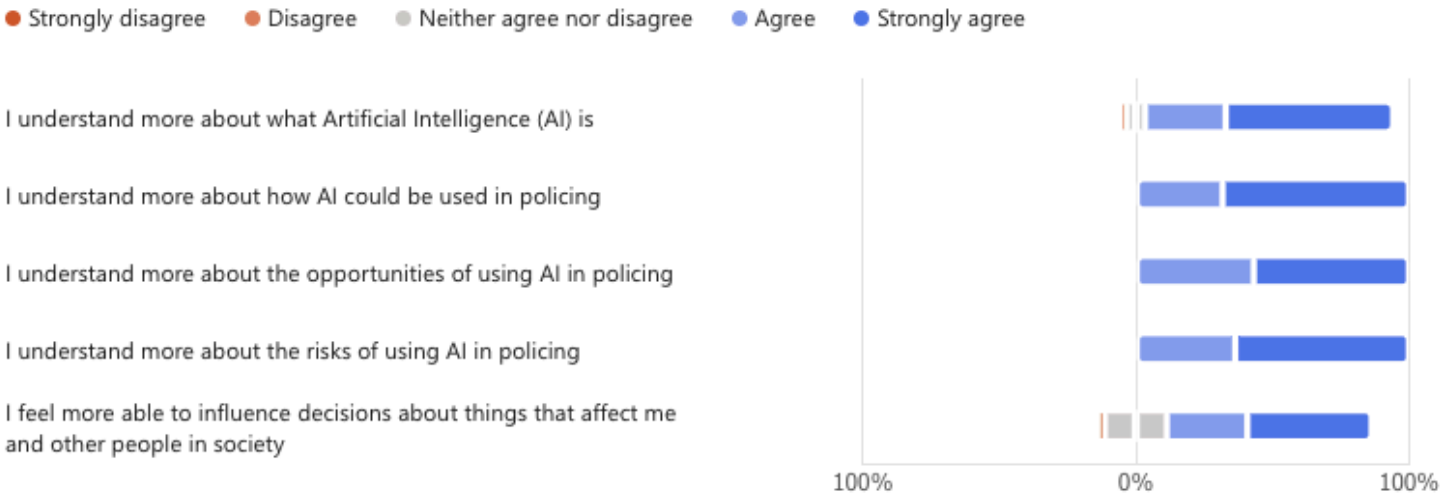
It is not unusual for methodological learning about participatory processes to be a focus in public dialogue processes, as they are often commissioned by teams using the methods for the first time. However, in this dialogue, members of the project team reported that they felt the range of objectives sometimes pulled them in competing directions, for example particularly around the purpose of the dissemination of the reporting outputs (and therefore its content). This is discussed in more detail in the section on impact on Home Office use of deliberative methods and in the project management section.

5. What impact did the dialogue have?

On public participants

Participants reported greater awareness of the central concepts of policing, like policing by consent and operational independence. They also have greater awareness of what AI is, and how it might be used in policing context, including what some of the benefits and risks are.

Compared to other statements in the evaluation survey, there is somewhat less agreement from respondents that as a result of the dialogue, they 'feel more able to influence decisions about things that affect me and other people in society'. Three-quarters of respondents agreed or strongly agreed, with 22.7% remaining neutral.



Source: participant evaluation survey following second in-person workshop

From interviews with participants, how much the dialogue affected participants' feelings of the influence they have over decisions which affect them, is tied to what happens next and how the dialogue findings are used by decision-makers. This outcome was limited because participants are unsure about the next steps which will be taken by the Home Office, or to what extent they will be kept informed about the next steps and given feedback.

> "It would be good for everyone to have a bit of knowledge about how things are going forward and keeping up with it, but to know as well that it's not just given that this is happening, other people's views are taken into account before decisions are made […] it's good that we've been given the chance to understand and have a say." **Participant interviewee**

> "How much influence I have over decisions will only come to fruition when we see how things are decided, good that I've been consulted but is it for sake of ticking a box or to be taken into account?" **Participant interviewee**

It was not felt to be a good use of public money to reconvene participants for a celebration event and feed back the findings (although this was discussed). Instead, participants were sent a draft of the summary report and provided some feedback – and were later signposted to the reports published on the Sciencewise website.

There is some evidence that participating in the dialogue has strengthened some participants' relationships with key institutions (including government, the Police and democracy). Participants interviewed spoke about feeling reassured that government was interested in hearing public views. For many, this was also the first time they had heard about the policing principle of policing by consent, and as a result there was a shift in how they conceptualised their potential influence over policing activity, through this dialogue.

> "It's good that people are carried along […] it gave me a sense that someone there is listening to some of the complaints that are coming out which is good." **Participant interviewee**

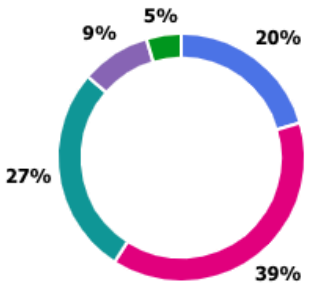
> "Obviously it's just the public and I would imagine expert weighting is higher than what the public thinks, [but] since there's policing with consent it's taken into account in some way." **Participant interviewee**

> "It's made me a lot more aware of our rights as a public, something that they talked about at the start called policing by consent and genuinely didn't know that was a thing […] Our voice is so important, the opportunity to get involved and talk about these sort of things [was a] good use of my time." **Participant interviewee**

In open-answer survey questions respondents spoke about having changed their views about AI in policing. Although this was not an end in itself, it does indicate that these participants had gone through an effective deliberative process, where they heard new information and came to new conclusions as a result of discussing it with their fellow participants. In general, more participant survey respondents indicated that they felt more positively about AI in policing than before the dialogue process (59%), with a minority feeling more negatively (14%) and just over a quarter of respondents (27%) feeling the same about the topic as when they started.

8. How do you feel about the use of AI in policing, compared to before you took part in the dialogue process?

A lot more positively	9
A bit more positively	17
Stayed the same	12
A bit more negatively	4
A lot more negatively	2



> "Certain opinions that I had from the first session to the second session, at the start I was slightly more negative sitting in the middle because I didn't know enough about it, the information from specialists and discussions on the issues I had and questions I asked, led me to having a better opinion of AI in policing at the end of the session." **Participant interviewee**

> "There's massive fear around [AI] and potential issues that could come with use and I don't know whether our government or public is prepared for that, shifted more towards a neutral

position, I was a lot more positive about it but the conversations we've had and info we've been told has made me a bit more reserved." **Participant interviewee**

Almost all were very satisfied (84%) or fairly satisfied (14%) with their involvement. All would be very likely (88%) or fairly likely (12%) to take part in a similar dialogue in the future.

On Home Office policy

The dialogue has provided useful confirmatory findings for Home Office and policing teams. Several Home Office and Oversight Group interviewees reported being unsurprised by the findings, but that they broadly chimed with their own assumptions about public attitudes, despite a lack of prior engagement with public on the topic. One Oversight Group member felt that the findings showed broader support than they expected, amongst generally reaffirming their prior perspectives.

"Things people said they were bothered about were very similar to things I expected them to be bothered about, plus some interesting snippets I hadn't thought about. My conclusion was that's really useful, at the risk of some confirmation bias it nevertheless did confirm we were worrying about the right things." **Home Office interviewee**

Findings were fed into funding decisions as part of the Spending Review (with a forthcoming announcement of the police funding settlement for future years in January 2026).

Perhaps the biggest takeaway for Home Office teams involved in the dialogue project has been learning about what the public want from government communications on AI in policing (and AI technologies in general), with one example of this having already been put into practice. Particularly, that the public did not only want to hear about the potential benefits of a use of AI technology, but wanted to understand the risks and safeguards in place. Home Office interviewees also spoke about finding it useful to understand the public priorities, in order to tailor communications to tell the public about what mattered to them. For example, the finding that the public were most interested in improving service quality and that cost savings were reinvested in this rather than leading to cuts in officer numbers.

"People said they wanted to see nuance in government communications, [not] overstating what AI can do […] explain how we're managing the downsides." **Home Office interviewee**

The dialogue project has taken place in a context of other related projects including PROBabLE Futures (which released a Responsible AI checklist during the dialogue fieldwork period in May 2025), CENTRIC public attitudes to AI in policing survey (which published results in Sept 2025), and a set of documents produced by the NPCC AI portfolio (including AI playbook which was released in June 2025). Although the dialogue project has not directly fed into any of these projects, there have been indirect links. For example, the NPCC AI portfolio is part funded by the Home Office team involved in the public dialogue, and so met regularly, and kept the NPCC AI team informed about how the dialogue was progressing. There is an ambition for the AI playbook to be regularly updated; it is possible that the dialogue findings could be used or explicitly referenced when doing so in the future.

Members of the Home Office team also met with the researchers from the CENTRIC project at Sheffield Hallam University[6].

There was no big announcement or launch of the dialogue report, and several interviewees described feeling as though the project 'fizzled out', or disappointed by the lack of pick-up by Home Office communications. Rather than an omission, however, the decision not to create a big launch around the report appeared to be an internal choice reflecting a desire for joined-up government communications around AI. This reflects the fact that this project is just one of many AI-related projects within government. The project was also scheduled to be mentioned in a planned summer announcement about AI from the Home Office, but this did not go ahead as planned. It will therefore be interesting to see if, and how, the dialogue findings are referenced in future Home Office communications, as part of a wider communications strategy being developed about AI-related issues. A short video produced by the delivery team and featuring members of the project team, alongside footage from the workshops, seemed to have had little use[7].

The dialogue findings were referenced in a report from the law reform charity JUSTICE on 'AI in Policing: international lessons and domestic solutions', published in December 2025. One of its lead authors, Ellen Lefley, sat on the Oversight Group for the project. The findings (alongside those of other public attitudes exercises including public surveys by CENTRIC and the Alan Turing Institute) were used as evidence to support a number of their recommendations to government, not least in their call for an independent body with an ongoing public participation role, which is positioned in JUSTICE's report as a counter to the prevailing sense of a powerlessness 'inevitability' of AI rollout, which emerged from the dialogue.

> *"Given the evidence of the public feeling in the dark and lacking power, we strongly urge the Government to grasp the opportunity for democratic engagement [by creating a new independent central body in primary legislation] […] The new independent central body, and in the meantime the Home Office or NPCC, should establish a new permanent public participation mechanism through which to engage with different groups of the public on an ongoing basis."* (JUSTICE, 2025)

Additionally, evidence is presented from the public dialogue findings to support JUSTICE's recommendations about transparency standards, ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes and so on. JUSTICE also referenced the dialogue findings in their submission of evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' inquiry 'Human Rights and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence'.

On wider policing

[6] The dialogue project did not directly influence the wording of the questions asked in the CENTRIC survey, and therefore is not a validation exercise for the dialogue findings.

[7] For example Oversight Group members interviewed for the evaluation reported not to have been sent it, and links to it were not included in any publicity around the report. Home Office staff reported that they had not shared it alongside the report, and it had not been played in internal Home Office dissemination sessions due to lack of time. This was therefore not a good use of funds, although its budget was likely to have been small as external filmmakers and editors were not used.

The impact on wider policing is as yet unclear, especially given the operational independence of police forces. This section therefore focuses primarily on reach. There was limited coverage in policing press, with one article about the report published in policing publication Policing Insight and a page summarising the findings on the Science & Technology in Policing website. There were no news stories about the project or findings from policing bodies like the NPCC or College of Policing, but the report was distributed by the NPCC AI board in their newsletter to practitioners[8].

Representatives from policing bodies sat on the Oversight Group and the Home Office project team also spoke directly with these policing bodies to discuss the findings. One Oversight Group member representing a policing body, who was interviewed for this evaluation, had shared it with their internal AI working group, but was unclear what, if any, pick up there had been. They did not have plans to share it any further, as, like policy colleagues, they felt the findings were unsurprising and confirmatory.

However, one interviewee spoke about the combination of the dialogue findings and CENTRIC survey having a bearing on their work, for example informing a requirement for a maximum transparency process[9]. At the time of writing, they were in the process of working out how best to consolidate current guidance and practice to influence compliance.

> "It has informed the requirement for having a process for maximum transparency […] [which] will be [published] in the coming months. This has been reaffirmed by recent CENTRIC research." **Oversight Group interviewee**

Two other Oversight Group members (representing a policing body, and a civil society organisation) had met subsequently to discuss the report and their respective work on the topic. Although they were known to each other before the project, one of these members interviewed for the evaluation felt that the report gave them a shared point of reference to galvanise a closer working relationship. Another Oversight Group member representing a civil society organisation concluded that the findings seemed useful for policing in terms of deciding where to focus efforts on developing the use of AI in policing, although caveated this with a concern about the finding that participants felt AI use was inevitable.[10]

> "It did feel like […] if you take into account the implicit (and questionable) assumption that seems to have guided discussions that AI use is inevitable, what's here is quite useful and practical for policing decision making certainly. For example, exploring which uses to focus on and which not to." **Oversight Group interviewee**

On Home Office use of deliberative methods

One of the dialogue's objectives was to raise awareness of participatory methods within the Home Office and police. Wider members of CoLab and other Home Office stakeholders

[8] This has over 2000 subscribers and was described by one Home Office interviewee as 'the main means of communicating within policing what's happening on AI'.
[9] Maximum transparency by default is a core principle of the NPCC Covenant for Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Policing.
[10] See discussion on this inevitability point in section on credibility.

attended the dialogue as observers. Following the report publication, there were also two dissemination events held with Home Office and policing stakeholders. These were split between reporting the findings, and talking about the method. One of these events was targeted more at those interested in learning about the method (as part of a series of lunchtime learning sessions) and was well attended, by 101 people working in policy, showing how the dialogue has raised awareness and curiosity about participatory methods within the Home Office. Given that this was the first project as part of a call-off contract between Home Office and Thinks, throughout the project there was a sense that this was a demonstrator for the method. It was clear from interviews with the Home Office project team and wider stakeholders that, even though they felt the project had limitations, they felt positively about the method, and could see potential for using it in the future. This included policymakers seeing the process, not just the findings.

> "Every single civil servant needs to go and do a session like this at some stage in their life, especially policy makers." **Home Office interviewee**

One Home Office stakeholder felt that seeing the process first-hand (and especially how the use case examples were designed and used) had been helpful to learn about how to communicate tech adoption and its impact on the public, and what could be done differently to this end.

There is longer-term interest in deliberative methods, as shown by future public dialogue projects currently being scoped (although not confirmed yet).

It is currently unclear the extent to which this awareness and interest extends to police. There was a missed opportunity for policing stakeholders to hear the deliberations first-hand (either as in-person speakers or as observers). For example, none of the policing representatives on the Oversight Group attended the dialogue events (there were no observers from the Oversight Group at all)[11]. Stakeholders have often reported in previous dialogues that the experience of hearing public participants discuss the topics can be a powerful and inspiring one (both in seeing the process and hearing what comes out of it), so this appeared to be a missed opportunity for impact related to this objective.

6. How credible was the dialogue with those involved and those expected to use the results?

Credibility with participants

[11] There is some confusion about whether Oversight Group members were formally invited to attend as observers, beyond it being mentioned to them as a possibility in Oversight Group meetings. This may have been affected by Sciencewise and evaluator caution about number of observers (given the relatively small number of participants involved) especially in London (which was a more convenient location for most observers), although there was definitely space for more observers in Cardiff and Durham.

The credibility of the process for participants was strengthened by the effort and professionalism they felt had gone into the process. This included the prominence of venues, the quality of presentations, the numbers of people in the delivery team, the diversity of participants and the presence of an evaluator.

The timing of the dialogue generated variable views from participants. Some felt positive that they were being asked about AI in policing before it was widely adopted, others felt it was already too late (and inevitable) because trials were underway, which negatively affected the credibility of the process as genuinely deliberative for them.

> "It's made me feel a little bit more heard, a little bit more seen. Sometimes when they ask your opinion it's like they go ahead and do it, they're doing it anyway, it was interesting to think about your opinion does matter […] I thought [the police] were using [AI] anyway and this is just a PR exercise, not that they were on the cusp of using it but weren't using it, it felt infantile, wasn't in its big stages, they hadn't rolled it out." **Participant interviewee**

> "I generally didn't expect them to have such a well-formed plan already […] It just made me realise no matter what we really feel, things are going to go ahead anyway, made me think more about wider topics of democracy and the power of our voice whether our say is ever there and whether our voice really does lead to change or whether we're there to just be informed about it. After that session I really did think about it." **Participant interviewee**

There were a few areas of the dialogue process which seemed to negatively affect the credibility of the process for participants. This included not having enough time to get to grips with such an important subject (see following Design and structure section) and not feeling that 58 participants across the three locations was enough to understand public views. They were worried about being felt to be 'representing' the views of the public, especially on a topic they felt was incredibly important. One participant interviewed assumed they were part of a larger process of public engagement.

During the design process, there was a session to develop the following 'framing question' for the dialogue: 'How should AI be used (if at all) in policing?' This was shown to participants during the workshops. However, this framing question alone did not seem to give participants the licence to critique whether AI should be used or not; rather the design of the session focused on uncovering red lines and ethical conditions for how AI would be used, with some use cases shown which were in live trials. In interviews, participants described the purpose of the dialogue more as understanding 'the extent to which we'd be comfortable with AI'. For most participants, this slight mismatch was not an issue, but one participant interviewed indicated that this had affected the credibility of the process for them and a fellow participant:

> "In the second session there was something that a participant said that really stuck out to me that they're not really asking with us whether we'd be ok with AI taking place, or implemented, they're asking us the extent to which we'd be comfortable with AI, interesting it really spun my perspective, do we really get a choice if we're not asked *whether* it gets used but *how* it gets used." **Participant interviewee [my emphasis]**

Credibility with those expected to use the results

Most of the Oversight Group and project team felt that the process and findings had credibility, referring to the level of effort and time put into it, how participants were convened, and the independent evaluation. In an area where little had already been done on public attitudes, they felt this was a valuable and credible addition to bolster existing anecdotal understandings or assumptions about what matters to the public about AI use in policing.

"It's the only kind of in depth deliberative participatory research about this area I have on my list of evidence. I've got no qualms at all in referring to it, it's interesting and useful and it filled a gap. There are loads more gaps, it's not done, but it's definitely a credible, useful piece of research. […] what people anecdotally understand [is] easily dismissed when it doesn't align, this is a piece of evidence that is less easily dismissed especially when it does call for a level of responsibility and accountability which maybe doesn't go in line with a growth based agenda." **Oversight Group interviewee**

As discussed above, one reported finding was that participants felt AI use in policing was inevitable. This was discussed in terms of participants either feeling that because AI is used in other settings, it will be used by police, or that they feel it is inevitable because of the benefits it brings. This was picked up by Oversight Group members interviewed for the evaluation. One felt that the finding should be interpreted in terms of the public feeling a sense of powerlessness, rather than support, over AI use. Another Oversight Group member was concerned that the assumption of inevitability made by participants was not adequately challenged by the dialogue process. This suggests that, although the report does state that participants had a range of reactions to the speed of AI rollout in other areas, there could have been more analysis and discussion of the sense of inevitability (and what it meant for their deliberations) in the report, to lend greater credibility to the findings. One Oversight Group member also felt that participants made an assumption that AI is more effective than humans, which they felt was again not adequately challenged in the process, and which they felt was pivotal to the conclusions participants came to. Participants' concerns about maximising accuracy and minimising bias are discussed in the dialogue report in section 8.2 (within the chapter on Participants' advice to the Home Office and police forces), but publishing the technical appendices (which give more detail about the evidence participants received) alongside the report may have helped readers to better assess these sorts of issues.

A decision was taken by the project team not to publish the appendices (but to make these available on request). This appeared to affect the project's external credibility for some. For example, in a LinkedIn post in July 2025 from UKRI's Head of Public Engagement Tom Saunders, several researchers in the field expressed confusion and criticism that key details of the methodology and sampling were not presented in the report, showing how important who took part is to the external credibility of the process. It should be noted that the sampling demographics table was later added to the full report after publication, and those who had commented were notified of the correction, which was attributed to a mix up with the documents rather than a deliberate choice to omit it.

A nationally-representative survey of 1000 people was conducted in the design phase to inform the design of the dialogue. It was used to inform the sampling approach and selection of use cases for the dialogue (representing a range of more to less contentious examples). However, the survey was not large enough to conduct sub-group analysis (for

example, of minoritised groups), and sampling considerations could have drawn on pre-existing data[12]; as a result it was not a particularly impactful exercise and the sequencing of it before the dialogue workshops shortened the time available for design and stimulus creation, in a timeline which was already tight. Arguably, the survey element of the project did not represent good value for money. Project team members (and some Oversight Group members interviewed during the design phase), reflected that sequencing the work the opposite way round, with a nationally representative survey to validate and explore the findings/recommendations with a wider sample of the public, could have been more useful, and given additional credibility to the project.

> "We talked about whether to do a pre or post survey. Having been through the process I think that a post nat rep [nationally representative] survey would have been better to have then validated the findings because then we can say we can go through this qual process and then we've validated that with a further 1000 people, that then gives it a lot more weight" **Project team interviewee**

The rationale for sequencing this way was a concern that quantitative methods have a greater legitimacy within government and that survey findings could eclipse the nuances and depth of deliberative qualitative work. However, as one Oversight Group member described in an interview which took place in the design phase, survey findings could be used not to discredit or supersede the ideas and views of deliberative participants, but to show where the gaps between informed public and general public lay, and therefore where to focus additional work.

> "It would be stronger to generate ideas and then validate those through larger statistical sampling – more empowering to the affected community citizen voice, to give a sense of how broadly supported is. If it's a great idea that's not broadly supported, we've got more work to do, or great idea that when you present it to the public they love it." **Oversight Group interviewee**

7. Has the dialogue met standards of good practice?

Design and structure

Across the board, everyone interviewed wanted more time for participant deliberations[13]. Participants, commissioning bodies and delivery team members called for more time – feeling that the amount of time available for the dialogue process (due to its budget and timescale for delivery) restricted what could be covered, but particularly the depth of

[12] And in fact, the main sampling criteria drawn from the survey (i.e. that there should be a 50:50 split of positive to negative attitudes towards AI) was not met in the final sample.

[13] This is not an uncommon finding from dialogue evaluations, but does differ according to process design, for example in the evaluation of a 2021 Defra/UKRI Sciencewise on climate adaptation, evaluators noted that participants were broadly satisfied with the 18 hours deliberation time. Looking at the five most recent Sciencewise-funded dialogues for which evaluation is available, deliberation time ranged from 9-18 hours with an average of 13.2 hours.

discussion that could be reached. Most felt that given more budget and time, the process could have benefitted from longer or more sessions. This would have enabled:

- Greater depth of discussion, especially in the second in-person workshop
- More meaningful interactions between participants in different locations
- More informed final deliberations and prioritisation
- Greater credibility of the dialogue for some
- More attention to participant care

While most survey respondents reported feeling there was enough time to discuss the things that mattered to them, more disagreed or were neutral about this statement than other statements.[14] In interviewees, some participants reported feeling that their discussions were cut short and that new concepts came up towards the end of the process, not enabling full discussion.

"It was a good start there were so many questions if you're not an expert in this field and that only came up at the very end of the engagement the question 'who is going to be liable and accountable?' […] that on its own could have been a topic for a few more hours, interesting to know more about, but we were running out of time, it came just before the end." **Participant interviewee**

Some participants felt that not having enough time affected how informed they felt their discussions were.

"Not enough time given to debating the issues. Sometimes I felt my responses were more driven by having to say something rather than being considered." **Participant survey respondent after first in-person workshop**

"The length I don't think it was proportionate to the scale of change, we needed more time to get into the details of the topic […] part of what we were doing was speculating on the potential of AI, had we known what it can do we would have come to a more informed decision." **Participant interviewee**

As part of the design, the principles that groups generated were collated at speed by the lead facilitator in one location, bringing them together into a combined set of shared principles over the lunchbreak. These were shown to participants, but there was insufficient time given for review and discussion in small groups, to ensure they were happy that these represented their views. This meant that participants were not as involved in this crucial step of refining the final list of priorities for later prioritisation, as would have been best-practice if designed differently.[15]

For project team members, they felt that more time was needed:

- to cover the topics in greater depth (with more opportunity for facilitators to probe deeper about views, priorities and red lines)
- to provide more contextual information to inform participants' deliberations

[14] 14% either disagreed or chose 'neither agree nor disagree'.

[15] If there had been more time to bring these together between workshops, participants could have reviewed them in Recollective, and spent some time discussing in the workshop itself, for example.

- to allow interactions between locations[16]
- to provide more participant care.
- to allow more opportunities for movement[17]

Interestingly, given this sense of a lack of deliberation time, one project team member interviewed felt that conversations were drying up by the end of the second day. They attributed this to not having had sufficient time and input into the stimulus materials to allow them to get into enough additional detail with participants in the second session.

Small table groupings were mixed up between the two workshops, and participant interviews felt positive about this decision, as they got to hear more and different perspectives.

Recruitment

Recruitment to the dialogue achieved 58 retained participants against a target of 60[18], with good attendance at each of the two in-person workshops. Participants praised the diversity of people in the room, which they felt led to a good discussion where they heard a range of different perspectives.

The recruitment specification included boosting for some sub-groups, including younger people, and black men. Recruitment of younger people (18-25) fell somewhat short of the target (7 rather than 9 participants) and some project team interviewees and observers felt that more could have been done to hear their voices (and those of ethnically minoritised participants). For example, one observer reported that quieter voices were often younger participants or those from ethnically minoritised backgrounds, and so discussions (and plenary feedback) featured less of their views.

> "We were over recruiting certain demographics to hear their voices, but just because they were in the room didn't mean they were speaking up, there was more effort required to bring out their voices." **Project team member interviewee**

This was a challenge highlighted in the design phase of the project by the Oversight Group and the dialogue may have benefitted from some separate work with specifically impacted groups, or young people, which could have been more tailored to these groups. Or, given that a separate strand of engagement would likely have been beyond the project timeline

[16] There were live link-ups via video call between the locations, used at the start of workshops and for sharing feedback at the end. These did not add much value to the process, and in some cases held some locations up while waiting for other locations to start or finish.

[17] Participants remained seated at their tables for the duration of the process (apart from moving between multiple rooms in London and some participants swapping tables to feed back on their initial principles discussions). There was limited room in the London venue to move around but this would have been possible in Cardiff and Durham, and could have helped raise the energy, especially in the second workshop where some project team observers felt there was a drop in energy toward the end of the day. Moving around and sharing ideas between tables can also enable different thinking and so this felt like a missed opportunity, which had been discussed in initial planning sessions. This was acknowledged by members of the project team.

[18] 60 members of the public were recruited, 58 of these took part in all elements of the dialogue process which is why both participant numbers are used in the full dialogue findings report.

and budget[19], one Oversight Group member suggested that the project team could have attempted to create self-reflective spaces (potentially in the online Recollective space) for participants sharing characteristics with groups likely to be more affected by AI in policing, to reflect on how their own experiences affected their views.

> "We know certainly from the literature that the burden often falls on already minoritised communities. What we don't get in this report is those voices coming out. If you've not heavily boosted a sample for that then it is, of course, less likely to come out strongly, but it's an important gap if you were to act on this report alone." **Oversight Group interviewee**

There was a significant skew towards positive views of AI amongst participants upon joining the dialogue[20]. 31 participants were positive about AI, while only 9 were negative (and 18 were neutral). This was against a desired target of 50/50[21]. Attitudinal questions are not always used as recruitment criteria (especially as it is common for participants' views to shift during deliberative processes). Project team members did reflect that this might have contributed to a more positive and accepting stance amongst participants overall, and took some mitigating action including presenting more critical perspectives – sourced from civil society groups represented on the Oversight Group – in the second workshop (which was not originally planned). Nevertheless, given this discrepancy from the desired sample, it would be best practice to discuss this in the final findings report; it was not mentioned in the third section 'Participants initial views' to put participants' initial discussions into context.

Involvement and facilitation

Facilitation was universally praised by participants to be good, enabling everyone to speak, listening and taking points seriously, and being welcoming. All participant survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the facilitators made it easy for them to participate and 98% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt able to contribute their views[22]. Participants interviewed were pleasantly surprised by the quality of discussion with such a diverse range of people.

> "Somehow the moderation was done really well so that everybody was getting a chance to talk and nobody was monopolising the conversation which could easily happen in a context like that because it was a really great mix of participants." **Participant interviewee**

> "I found it heartening to see how well the dialogue between people who had never met before and came from very different backgrounds actually worked and how focussed and engaged everybody was throughout the workshop. The workshop was really well run and

[19] Although may have been more impactful than the design survey, in terms of resource use
[20] Assessed using a modified version of a question from the Pew Research Center's Views on AI Survey (2024) 'On a scale of 1-5, how positively do you feel about AI? 1 means you feel very negatively towards it, and 5 means you feel very positively towards it.'
[21] Based on findings from the design survey, although a Centric (Sheffield Hallam University) survey conducted after the dialogue workshops found that +60% of the population is broadly supportive of police use of AI.
[22] 77.3%, n=36 and 72%, n=31 strongly agreed respectively (final workshop survey)

the moderators made sure everybody felt confident to express their views." **Participant survey respondent, after final in-person workshop**

From evaluator observations (in different small groups across two locations, and interviews with project team and observers across all locations), the quality of facilitation varied in two main ways which had a bearing on the discussions:

1. *Active recording*

The amount of visible notetaking differed between facilitators. Discussions were audio recorded, and so this was less important for having a good record of what participants said[23]. However, in groups where more was recorded on flipcharts, participants referred back to the notes and they became a collective object to support building on their discussions. Other facilitators wrote less, and did not give participants the chance to write themselves (e.g. post-its were available but the facilitator wrote on them rather than the participants). No marker pens were available so that when participants did write on post-its using biros, they weren't very visible to the whole group, reducing the opportunity to use the board as a collaborative tool for thinking.

2. *Use of prompts*

The degree of prompting by facilitators on participants' views varied, and relied more heavily on facilitator skill and knowledge of the topic. There were moments in the process at which facilitators could have benefitted from more prompt questions and examples which went beyond the case study materials. This was particularly the case given that there were no speakers present at the workshops and that other observers were briefed quite strongly not to contribute to discussions. Combined with the limited time available to get through materials, this meant that discussions didn't go into as much depth (especially in the second in-person session where this would have been expected) and there was a tendency among some facilitators to ask closed questions to clarify participant points to write them up (for example 'do you think x or y?' rather than 'tell me more about that/why do you think that?') This also meant there wasn't always enough work done to bring out quieter voices, at every table.[24]

"Facilitators weren't that familiar with the specialised subject matter. We obviously needed more experts in the room, ideally the facilitators would have had a bit more of a briefing, these things are never perfect, but I did feel like the level at which the facilitator operated really made a big impact on the conversation and […] drawing out the different opinions, especially the quieter folks. I saw some doing it really well." **Project team interviewee**

By all appearances, the facilitation team was also exclusively White. This is not to say that they weren't able to identify and manage problematic power dynamics in small groups, or ensure every participant was able to have their say, but having some facilitators of colour may have positively affected participants' sense of what they felt safe to discuss in this forum.

[23] Although the delivery team were experimenting with not having note takers assigned to every table.
[24] One observer reported that quieter voices were often younger participants or those from ethnically minoritised backgrounds, and so discussions (and plenary feedback) featured less of their views. They were also concerned that facilitators did most of the speaking in plenary.

Materials

Participants were shown a range of stimulus material throughout the dialogue. This included:

- **Online discovery activities**: PDF materials for online review covering Policing in England and Wales (its operational structure and key principles) and AI in general. Participants were also asked to watch short videos on AI and an introduction from Paul Taylor, Police Chief Scientific Advisor on the role of AI in policing
- **First in-person workshop**: a set of three written case studies on AI call handling, summarising data and predictive policing, with 'talking head' video introductions
- **Online discovery activities**: more complex versions of the case studies
- **Second in-person workshop**: videos from Oversight Group members Steve Barnabis from youth community interest company Project Zero and Ellen Lefley from law reform charity JUSTICE, on the broader impacts of AI in policing on society. These covered community contexts for relationship breakdown with the police, and on accuracy, bias and police accountability.

Interim findings of participants' responses to which use cases they found more or less comfortable (collated across all locations) were also presented back to participants, which provided a useful provocation for further discussions.

Facilitators had several tools to use to help discussions throughout, including:

- Empathy maps – to encourage participants to think about the issues from another perspective. These were helpful when used, but were used inconsistently between facilitators and some perspectives were more obviously relevant to specific use cases compared to others, so that more specific direction for facilitators could have been useful to make the best use of time
- Target – to support discussions about how comfortable or uncomfortable the different use cases felt to participants. This was a helpful visual tool but one post-it was used per use case, which forced participants to come to consensus unnecessarily early. It would have been more fruitful for discussion if each participant recorded their level of comfort for each use case on the target and the differences/similarities were then discussed
- PESTLE analysis – to support discussions about wider implications of AI in policing. This was useful to open up conversations but a lot of energy was required upfront to understand the language and categorise points into the different domains, which could feel restrictive. Additionally, participants did not hear information from specialists about the wider societal implications until later in the process, and might have benefitted from that knowledge in order to discuss implications for aspects such as 'legal' and 'economic' for example

Although everyone used the target and PESTLE analysis, the dialogue process plan gave facilitators some flexibility about the other tools and prompts they used and how often. Whilst this avoided being overly restrictive, and gave facilitators licence to adapt for their groups' needs, it also relied more heavily on facilitator skill and knowledge. In some groups I observed, the empathy maps were not used, nor the prompts or examples in the written case studies. This meant that not all participants engaged fully with content around social justice issues, such as one perspective in the empathy map about over-policing, or the US

example of the COMPAS AI tool for evaluating likelihood of reoffending, which has been widely criticised for disproportionately classifying Black defendants as higher risk[25].

As a result there was perhaps a less systematic exploration of how different factors affected participants' views and their relative prioritisation of these factors e.g. the type of data used by AI tools, whether AI makes decisions, the scale of potential benefit, the accuracy of any system, the likelihood of harms etc.

Some of these factors were drawn out in the analysis process instead, although differences in the extent of facilitator prompting for these across tables, makes it more difficult to draw clear and useable conclusions. This is an early stage of dialogue on this topic, but it would be interesting and useful to more systematically draw these out with participants in any future dialogue and engagement on this topic.

The use cases chosen provided the hoped-for range of more and less controversial examples, and the more complex scenarios within each use case were helpful to reveal the factors affecting participants' views. Useful supporting examples and prompts were created in materials given to participants in slide packs, but not referred to consistently by all facilitators. Some isolated misunderstanding of the scenarios also confused discussions[26]. Time could have been better spent recapping the case studies (in plenary or in small groups) to ensure everyone had understood them from their initial review online. Indeed, some facilitators did choose to do this with their groups.

Specialist interaction

The dialogue was unusual in that specialist input/evidence continued throughout the dialogue workshops, so that the 'learning phase' of the dialogue continued throughout[27]. This was because, following the first in-person workshop, it was felt that more critical perspectives were needed to bring in wider implications of AI use in policing. This was a very positive choice, especially given the skew towards a positive view of AI that participants had upon joining the process (see Recruitment section). Without these inputs, the dialogue stimulus material would not have been balanced. It also helped to spread out the information provision to make it more manageable for participants, but only surfacing some of the major ethical questions in the second workshop meant there was less time to get to grips and discuss them (e.g. questions around accountability).

This was more of an overall time issue (see Design and Structure section), as the decision to include more critical perspectives seemed a very positive one and made a big difference to the range of issues discussed by participants subsequently. As a result, participants interviewed felt that they had heard a range of perspectives on AI in policing and all participant survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the information they had been provided with was balanced[28]. This was true even where some participants interviewed acknowledged the first session was more pro-AI/slanted towards the positive

[25] https://www.propublica.org/article/how-we-analyzed-the-compas-recidivism-algorithm

[26] For example, that predictive policing was something used on 'reoffenders' rather than predicting the likelihood of reoffending.

[27] Normally it would be front-loaded with later time dedicated to deliberations only.

[28] of which 61%, n=27 strongly agreed in the final workshop evaluation survey

because use cases were presented by their advocates, even if they did provide positives and negatives in their presentations. Participants interviewed found the second workshop presentations particularly memorable. Two participants interviewed also reported feeling more validated to share their views and concerns about AI as a result of hearing these echoed by specialists. They had previously felt uneasy about AI use but felt they were 'speculating' rather than speaking from an informed position:

> "We saw more of the critical element in the second session that was really helpful and insightful as well, as a lot of things was just speculation, having people from different organisations talking about that was validating and reassuring, and also that [Home Office/Police] they had actually worked with those who were sceptical that was good […] that there are people who work in charities who've done research and have evidence based recommendations and facts they could give us." **Participant interviewee**

A big part of participants' positive feedback centred around being able to interact and deliberate with their fellow participants, and hear a range of views from a diverse group of people. However, participants in other dialogues often report how useful it is being able to directly engage with stakeholders and specialists in the topic area as well. This was a weaker area of this dialogue, as there were no specialists present to answer participant questions. All the specialist input came via recorded video, partly to ensure that participants in each location saw the same stimulus, given the workshops took place in all 3 locations simultaneously. Participants heard from specialists in policing and later, from community and legal perspectives. Where observers with specialist knowledge were in attendance, in some locations, they were strongly briefed not to engage in the discussion[29]. Participants were told they could ask questions, but there was no structured space created to enable this[30]. In general, participants did not report being able to ask questions as a serious issue, although three participants interviewed felt that they would have liked more of this opportunity, especially to speak to decision-makers or those on the technical side of the topic:

> "Now that I reflect on it we only had one person who was able to come in from the videos, it would have been nice to have a Q&A session where they talk about where they see this going, [the Home Office] people there were a bit more brief, more interested in what we had to say they were limited in what they gave their opinions on." **Participant interviewee**

> "I think [expertise available] was ok but there was also limit of knowledge from the people who came from the Home Office. Most of the people at the Home Office they are not really the technical person, me I was looking forward to seeing the technical, at least one or two, in terms of technical data I wanted a technical person." **Participant interviewee**

Having specialists available, including as observers, could have also helped support facilitators (who are not expected to be subject matter experts) to correct misunderstandings, provide more detail or examples beyond the use cases.

[29] And were also all from the Home Office side, so not representing the range of perspectives on the Oversight Group for example.

[30] For example on the online Recollective platform, a question gathering session during the workshops or a flipchart space for gathering and recording participant questions.

Hybrid delivery

The dialogue was delivered in hybrid format, with some information provision and tasks taking place online and more information provision and discussions taking place in-person during workshops.

The Recollective online platform generally worked well for the purpose with some participants experiencing minor issues about task completion. 99% of participant survey respondents reported finding the platform fairly or very easy to use, after the first session. A couple of participants interviewed felt that they didn't know what response was 'expected' of them before they knew anything about the topic and that they felt they had to repeat themselves in answering the second set of online activities. They did not want to or know how to get help from moderators. Others just generally didn't enjoy completing the work online without facilitation as much as in-person discussions and found it dull. Although there was light-touch moderation online, this was not an effective way of getting participants to elaborate on their views shared and moderator prompts generally went unanswered.

Feedback from participants about venues was generally positive regarding their central locations, space and catering. There were issues reported regarding sound and temperature in Cardiff (especially for the first in-person workshop, which was improved for the second). Some participants reported that finding the London venue was difficult and it had cramped conditions. From my own observation, the use of Thinks office space for the London workshops did not work well as it necessitated a lot of time being spent in moving smaller groups between separate rooms. Participants in Durham particularly appreciated the care taken to ensure they were well fed and hydrated. The choice of venues made a difference to participants' first impressions. For example, some interviewed spoke about feeling that the venues showed the importance or cost of the project – which signalled its importance[31].

Project management

This was the first project in an ongoing call-off contract between the Home Office and Thinks. As such, there was lots of emphasis on learning for the future. Members of the project team from the Home Office found the role of Sciencewise particularly useful in providing reflection and guidance on best-practice throughout the process, enabling real-time learning. They sometimes would have liked more of this, including from the delivery team, to understand where decisions were made for budget/time constraint reasons and what might be considered best practice were those constraints not there.

Project team members reported feeling positively about collaborating together across different disciplines, and being able to learn from different ways of working (user research or deliberative methods). This collaboration was billed as co-design, and Home Office team members interviewed felt that there was more genuine co-design in earlier stages of the dialogue and less in later stages (which they attributed to time and capacity squeezes on the delivery team). The delivery team reflected that they didn't feel that the spaces they created for collaboration (e.g. Microsoft Teams) had met the needs of a co-design process.

[31] These participants were either reassured or daunted by this.

Project team meetings were weekly, well chaired with notes and actions followed up. Co-design happened outside of team meetings, in in-person workshops. Later in the project an additional weekly check-in was added for a smaller group of the team, to enable a more responsive way of working in the weeks leading up to workshop delivery.

At times, the dialogue objectives about understanding public attitudes and raising awareness of participatory methods, felt in competition. As the first time for the Home Office using deliberative methods, it was an important showcase for the method, as well as opportunity to learn. Some Home Office team members interviewed reflected that different priorities and preferences about ways of working (between CoLab and NCPU), may have made it difficult for the delivery team to meet them all. For example, in the report writing process, a very early draft was shared. Some NPCU team members interviewed felt that they had to have far greater input into the report than they had anticipated (while CoLab team members welcomed this). By the end of the process, there was still a question about whether CoLab (as a senior pool of experienced researchers and facilitators) could have played a closer role in facilitating the dialogues, partly as a learning exercise[32]. One Home Office project team interviewee felt that the focus of dissemination of the reporting outputs had been more on the objective of raising awareness of the method, rather than focused on the findings.

Some team members from CoLab, Thinks and Sciencewise took part in discussions, although this functioned less like an action learning set as originally envisaged. The team also took part in a retrospective, led by an external CoLab colleague, to discuss what worked well and not so well about their collaboration, and what they can learn for working together in future projects.

Home Office project team members reported feeling that the reporting process was extremely long, with much more back-and-forth than expected. One interviewee felt that this process contributed to a lack of momentum and enthusiasm for the project by the end, including its launch and how confident they were in sharing the final reporting outputs. The report ended up being launched around three months after its original publication target set at the outset of the project.

Oversight

An Oversight Group was set up for the project, comprising 12 members and a Chair, who met five times. There is a mix of groups represented as part of the group from academia, policing and civil society. Project team members have found the challenges from 'critical friends' on the group (civil society groups) particularly useful and these members were also asked to contribute recorded stimulus for the second in-person workshop. Arguably, given low public trust in the police[33] and multiple independent inquiries finding the police to be

[32] This was discussed explicitly in the design phase, where having an independent facilitation team was felt to be most important for the credibility of the dialogue process and findings, particularly by Sciencewise advisors.
[33] For example, an October 2025 YouGov poll on the question 'How much, if at all, do you trust the police?' found that 42% of respondents did not trust the police, against 55% saying they did.

racist, misogynist and homophobic[34], there was not enough representation from civil society groups or academics directly addressing this in their work.

Interviewees reported feeling that there has been less engagement from the group than hoped for, with sporadic attendance and some members (particular those representing policing bodies) remaining relatively quiet during the meetings. The Chair could have played a greater role in eliciting contribution from all. None of the Oversight Group members observed any of the workshop sessions[35].

The three Oversight Group members interviewed at the end of the process did feel that they had been given the level of oversight of the project that they expected, that they were given opportunity to input at strategic points, and that points they raised were taken on board (including for the final findings report)[36]. One interviewee was less sure how well they had been able to have oversight over the balance of materials used in the process.

> "In the AI and tech space, participants are often not coming in with strong pre-existing ideas on nuances of AI, and so inputs provide a very significant steer to the discussion. That means it was really important to ask the question 'is what we've got here balanced?' I don't know that we got to do that in the Oversight Group." **Oversight Group interviewee**

8. Cost and benefits

Costs

The budget for the dialogue was £225,000 (excluding VAT) of which £125,000 was funded by UKRI's Sciencewise programme and £100,000 from Home Office. This covered the design and delivery of the dialogue, recruitment, venue and catering costs, transport costs, independent evaluation and a substantial proportion for the involvement of the CoLab team. It also covered the survey undertaken in the design phase and a video output produced[37]. The budget also covered thank you payments for participants of £200 for attending the workshops and £50 for taking part in the online community. The distribution of costs

[34] *The Macpherson Report* (1999) found the Met police to be 'institutionally racist', the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Third report of *The Macpherson Report: Twenty-two years on* (2021) found 'very serious and persistent shortcomings across the police service with regard to racial inequalities and racism in important areas that still have not been addressed after more than two decades'. *The Casey Review* (2023) found the Met police to be 'institutionally racist, misogynist and homophobic', the *Angiolini Inquiry* (Part 1 – 2024) found systemic issues of sexism and misogyny within policing,

[35] There is some confusion about whether Oversight Group members were formally invited to attend as observers, beyond it being mentioned to them as a possibility in Oversight Group meetings. This may have been affected by Sciencewise and evaluator caution about number of observers (given the relatively small number of participants involved) especially in London (which was a more convenient location for most observers), although there was definitely space for more observers in Cardiff and Durham.

[36] The Oversight Group were not sent the technical appendices in the version of the report they viewed.

[37] These elements of the process did not represent good value for money, because they received little use. See lessons learnt section for more discussion on this.

between the delivery contractors Thinks and the CoLab team had a material impact on the number of participants and hours of engagement that were possible – if more of the total budget had gone to delivery, this would have likely resulted in participants being able to spend more time, in possibly more depth, strengthening the findings.

£25,000 of in-kind cost came from the Home Office in terms of the involvement of NPCU as part of the project team.

Members of the Oversight Group and specialists contributing stimulus contributed an estimated 28 days in-kind attending meetings, preparing and recording stimulus videos and reviewing report drafts. Valuing this at £300/day[38], this gives a total of £8,400 additional in-kind cost, or an additional 3% of the budget.

Potential economic benefits

The dialogue is unlikely to have any direct economic benefits. Given the early stage of impact findings, the dialogue has yet to have any indirect economic benefits (and these would be very hard to measure in terms of the contribution of the dialogue). However, making the large assumption that the public dialogue helps de-risk and accelerate the adoption of AI technologies for use by the police, there are strong projected economic benefits. For example, the oft-cited figure of AI freeing up 15 million hours of police time originates from the Policing Productivity Review (2023), and was based on scaling up of existing science and technology projects nationally across all 43 police forces in England and Wales (many of which were based on AI technologies). This is equivalent to £370m per year to be reallocated[39]. The Police Foundation think tank have a worked example for redacting documents, for example, estimated to save £8.5 million[40]. The review also estimated 38 million hours of police time being saved by its recommendations to improve productivity, including a large section of recommendations under the heading 'technology as a productivity multiplier' (although, of course, not all AI-driven).

9. Lessons learnt

1. **The hybrid format of the dialogue design ensured participants' readiness for deliberation**

Participants were given a lot of information upfront, to look through online in a set of lightly-moderated 'Discovery' activities.

[38] This figure is taken from the Science Council honorarium guidance as an equivalent committee payment structure, rather than for example, consultancy fee levels.

[39] https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/better-investing-in-science-and-technology-would-free-up-15-million-hours-of-police-time

[40] https://www.police-foundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/policing-and-ai.pdf.pdf

As a result, participants entered the room with a good basic understanding of key concepts which were used throughout the dialogue. This also had a levelling effect between participants, giving them some shared references as well as being able to talk from their own experiences and perspectives. This enabled participants to get into discussions more quickly, with less grounding needed, making the best use of the limited in-person workshop time in the first workshop. Some participants interviewed spoke about feeling more comfortable joining the first in-person workshop, as a result of these preparatory activities.

Given that the online information provision was a strength of the early part of the dialogue process, it would have been useful to provide a similar level of stimulus material between the two sessions. This could have helped participants to explore additional legal, societal, technological, political and economic factors in more detail in the second session, by introducing the concepts early, as participants struggled more to deliberate on these elements.

2. **There was a lack of meaningful engagement with the social justice aspect of the topic**

It is no secret that minoritised groups (whether for ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, or disability reasons) have lower levels of trust in the police, than average[41]. And for good reason: a raft of independent inquiries have concluded that specific police forces, or policing structures in general, are institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic[42].

Given this, the dialogue set out with a specific objective to engage with and include 'sub-groups who may be more at risk of deleterious outcomes as a result of unrepresentative data potentially being used to create AI models, such as individuals from ethnic minority groups and women'. To this end, the dialogue design included boosting the recruitment of participants from specific groups (see Recruitment section) and some stimulus material engaging with bias, although this was somewhat inconsistently used (see Materials section).

These efforts were not enough to allow for meaningful engagement with social justice issues. A separate engagement strand for the boosted sample groups, which could have been better tailored to elicit specific concerns, views or trade-offs from participants from these groups, and fed into the main dialogue, would have been preferable. Or (as suggested by one Oversight Group member interviewed for the evaluation) there could have been opportunities for participants' self-reflection on how they brought their own experiences

[41] For example, data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (Mar 2023) shows that respondents from Black and Mixed ethnic backgrounds reported the lowest rates of confidence in the police, compared to other ethnic groups. Data from the IOPC Public Perceptions Tracker (2025) shows that respondents from Mixed ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ groups and those with disabilities are more likely to feel negatively towards the police in general and their local police force specifically.

[42] *The Macpherson Report* (1999) found the Met police to be 'institutionally racist', the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Third report of *The Macpherson Report: Twenty-two years on* (2021) found 'very serious and persistent shortcomings across the police service with regard to racial inequalities and racism in important areas that still have not been addressed after more than two decades'. *The Casey Review* (2023) found the Met police to be 'institutionally racist, misogynist and homophobic', the *Angiolini Inquiry* (Part 1 – 2024) found systemic issues of sexism and misogyny within policing,

and identities to bear on their deliberations[43]. A larger sample for the design survey could have allowed for more sub-group analysis by age, gender and ethnicity, and this data could have been shown to participants to engage with (or they could have engaged with existing data). The Oversight Group could have had more representatives working on social justice issues in their work, including academics.

Additionally, the reporting of participants' views about racial bias, tended to frame these about perception rather than fact – for example 'Those participants most uncomfortable with this use case felt that using AI for predicting reoffending could further perpetuate racial bias that they already perceived to be happening within the police' (p.54), or 'Participants were particularly concerned about the potential for further reinforcing perceived existing police bias against some communities' (p.49). This language seems unnecessarily tentative, given the evidence from independent inquiries, and has the effect of minimising these viewpoints. The decision not to publish the technical appendices as standard aroused suspicion externally upon publication of the report[44]. Some comments from external researchers upon initial publication of the report, suggest that the credibility of the findings of the dialogue to them was contingent upon social justice issues being a significant and meaningful focus of the dialogue. There remains a gap to act on these findings alone.

3. **More attention needs to be given to participant care around sensitive topics like interactions with the police, which might lead to disclosures, including in online formats**

In the first in-person session, a number of sensitive disclosures were made by participants (for example about being a victim of crime, or about the arrest of a close family member), which were poorly handled by facilitators[45]. Following feedback from me and the Sciencewise advisor, changes were made for the second session. These included the provision of a quiet space, facilitation teams being briefed about handling disclosures and the lead facilitator talking about the sensitive nature of the topic in their welcome to all participants at the start of the day. These changes helped; the need for them could have been predicted and been in place from the start.

A minority of participants interviewed also talked about feeling overwhelmed by the online material and new content they were tasked with before the first in-person session. Participants feeling a little overwhelmed by how much there is to learn is not unusual in a dialogue, but would normally happen within the structure of a facilitator-led space where participant care could be prioritised. For example, some participants interviewed reported spending considerably more time than asked on these online activities and self-initiated further reading/Youtube videos, in some cases feeling quite anxious as a result.

4. **Discussing the relative priority of different project objectives at each stage of the project is time well spent**

[43] This could have been an individual exercise on the online space, for example, or even set up as self-selecting forums for groups sharing similar characteristic (participants from minoritised ethnic backgrounds for example) to discuss specific aspects they did not feel as comfortable discussing in a mixed group.
[44] As well as the participant demographics table initially, although this was an error which was later rectified.
[45] For example, not acknowledging that this was a difficult thing to share, or not intervening when other participants asked inappropriate questions.

Process and content learning can both be important parts of dialogue projects. This dialogue had an explicit objective about 'Raising awareness of participatory methods within the Home Office and police forces'. At times, project team members reported this objective being in competition with the other project objectives, for example when disseminating the findings.

Where there are multiple dialogue objectives, it may be useful to discuss the priority of each objective at inception meetings, which could differ according to project partner. These should be periodically revisited throughout the project to uncover and work through any tensions.

5. If surveys are to be used as part of dialogue projects, their timing and use should be considered both in terms of external credibility and value for money

This project included a survey of 1,000 people as part of the design process. This informed sampling considerations and the choice of use cases. However, it was not clear that this represented good value for money, as opposed to using existing data. As a non-nationally-representative survey, it was also of limited value as a standalone piece of research, or for exploring sub-group analysis. Sequencing the survey within what was a very short design phase, also took away time to prepare the stimulus material, including getting more specialist input and perspectives to work up case studies.

Dialogue projects should carefully consider the purpose and timing of survey elements of dialogue projects, so that they can best support delivery of impact. If used before deliberative methods, it should be clear exactly how the findings will be used to make decisions about the design and delivery of the dialogue, and that there is enough time in project timelines to allow for this. If used after deliberative methods, it should be clear how the purpose of the survey is respectful of and builds on the work of public participants, for example, in identifying where there might be differences between a general and informed public view and why.

6. The value of video outputs comes down to quality and clarity of purpose

In other dialogues, video content created has been praised for supporting the reach and impact of the dialogue findings– as well as showing observers what a deliberative process looks like[46]. In this case, however, the video created to show the process has not been disseminated (even to participants or the Oversight Group). The video was funded from a portion of the overall project budget which became available to the delivery organisation later in the process, and so its brief, purpose and arrangements for filming were perhaps less considered as a result of this not being originally included in the budget for their work. This meant that the final video was of a less high quality (for example, the footage of the

[46] For example, two recent examples of high quality video outputs being praised in independent evaluations of Sciencewise dialogue processes are Ursus Consulting (2024) Evaluation of a Public Dialogue on Early Human Embryo Development in research Impact report and Ursus Consulting (2022) National Food Strategy Public Dialogue final evaluation report.

workshops themselves was captured by facilitators) and may have affected stakeholders' enthusiasm for sharing it.

7. **Having a longer information provision stage in the dialogue had both pros & cons**

Due to a decision taken after the first workshop to introduce more critical perspectives on AI in policing, participants received new information over a longer timeframe than originally planned. This seemed to be positive in that participants had longer to take information in, and it was more well-paced. It was absolutely the right decision taken by the project team to introduce these additional viewpoints into the second workshop, for reasons of balance.

However, the drawback was that participants were not always able to deliberate fully on issues only introduced later in the process, with accountability given by one participant interviewed for the evaluation, as an example of an issue they felt they did not get to discuss adequately before feeling as though they had to move on. Better use of the online space between the two workshops, and tighter use of the facilitation exercises could have helped mitigate participants feeling some later issues were rushed.

8. **Good briefings for facilitation teams remain a crucial element of delivering high quality deliberative processes**

Facilitation of the dialogue was roundly praised by participants. However, use of the tools and exercises was inconsistent between facilitators, who were given a lot of flexibility and needed to rely often on their own knowledge, rather than structured tools and examples. These differences may have made comparison between table groups more difficult, especially in the case of prioritisation exercises. Some key facilitation skills like active recording, were handled in very different ways by facilitators and – as discussed earlier – disclosures in the first session made by participants were not always sensitively handled.

Facilitation teams would have benefitted from a more comprehensive brief – about how to handle disclosures, which exercises to use and when, and some further examples they could draw on if needed.

9. **Interaction with specialists may provide greater benefits than the drawbacks it involves**

The project involved simultaneous workshops in three locations, all happening on the same weekends with separate facilitation teams. As a result, and to ensure participants all received the same information, all the specialist inputs came via pre-recorded video. One specialist from the videos was present in one location, as an observer, and was briefed not to engage in the discussions with participants.

Whilst this ensured that everyone received the same information, it had some significant downsides. Participants were not able to ask questions of the specialists' inputs, and there was no alternative mechanism to allow this. Most participants reported being content with their interaction with specialists, but when specifically asked on this point in interviews,

some participants reflected that they would have found this useful (especially on more technical questions about how AI technologies worked). Having specialists in the room (even if they were not the ones in the video content) could also have been a useful resource for facilitators less close to the topic – as some appeared to struggle to provide examples of uses that went beyond the case study materials.

10. **Further deliberative engagement may want to explore more systematically which of the factors identified in this dialogue are most important to the public and how they interact.**

This was the first UK deliberation on this topic, and as such, makes an important contribution to the evidence on public perceptions of AI in policing. Future deliberations could explore factors affecting public views such as: the accuracy of AI tools; the scale and type of data used (to train or feed the AI tool); the context in which the data is collected; the identity (and extent to which they could be identified) of those in the data; the scale at which benefits (e.g. time saved) are felt; the scale at which risks are felt; the identity of who benefits or is harmed; the context and extent to which decisions are taken by AI tools, and so on.

Appendix A: List of Oversight Group members

Oversight Group Members:

- Andrew Stafford (Research Lead, Office of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor)
- Dr Felicity O'Connell (Researcher, The Police Foundation)
- Lewis Lincoln-Gordon (Chief Staff Officer to Alex Murray, Coordinator of the NPCC AI Portfolio)
- William Noble (Policy Assistant Association of Police and Crime Commissioners)
- Scott Morgan (Senior Research Officer, College of Policing)
- Prof Lewis Griffin (Professor of Computer Science, UCL)
- Prof Shane Johnson (Director of the Dawes Centre for Future Crime, UCL)
- Steve Barnabis (Founder of Project Zero, Project Zero)
- Tim Davies (Research and Practice Director, Connected by Data)
- Zoe Amar (Director, Zoe Amar Digital)
- Ellen Lefley (Senior Lawyer, Justice)
- Louise King (Co-Lead, Just for Kids Law and Director, Children's Rights Alliances for England)

Chair

- Dr Natalie Byrom, Independent Researcher and Policy Advisor

The group met four times at key points in the project:

1. At inception, to agree terms of reference and review methodology
2. At design phase, to review sampling and framing question
3. At the end of the design phase, to review workshop plans and use cases
4. Following the delivery of the workshops, to shape the outputs

Appendix B: Evaluation approach and activities

This report is based on findings from the following evaluation activities:

Focus	Activity	Sample
Document review and observation	Review of dialogue materials	N/A
	Observation of dialogue workshops	4 of 6
Participants	Participant surveys	2x (following both in-person workshops): ● n=58 representing 97% response rate ● n=44 representing 73% response rate
	Semi-structured interviews	9 (15% of total dialogue participants)
Observers and stakeholders	Semi structured interviews	6 (4 following workshop delivery, 2 following report launch)
Project team	Semi-structured interviews with members of delivery team	4 (2 at baseline, 2 following workshop delivery)
	Semi-structured interviews with members of commissioning body	8 (3 at baseline, 3 following workshop delivery, 2 following report launch)
	Attendance at catch up meetings	Weekly during design and delivery phase
Oversight Group	Semi-structured interviews	6 (3 at baseline, 3 following report launch)

The participant interviewees were selected to loosely adhere to the overall recruitment sample across the dialogue. Given the smaller sample size, some demographic factors were prioritised including location, gender and age.

The Oversight Group (OG) interviewees were selected from some of the different stakeholder groups within the Oversight Group (although their views are not representative of these groups), to provide information on potential routes to impact.

This evaluation draws on realist theory-based evaluation, first outlined by Pawson & Tilley, which asks what works, for whom, in which circumstances and why[47]. The realist evaluation methodology includes:

[47] Pawson, P. The science of evaluation: a realist manifesto. London: Sage; 2013.

- identifying the *context* in which the dialogue takes place (both those things which are controllable, and those which are not), which includes the *resources* or *opportunities* offered to participants through the dialogue
- assessing the degree to which desired (and unintended) *outcomes* are achieved through the dialogue
- identifying the *mechanisms* by which outcomes are achieved (the participants /stakeholders' *reasoning* in response to the *resources* offered by the dialogue[48])

A baseline report was submitted to the project team Jan 2025, which covered the context for the dialogue project, and an interim report submitted in Mar 2025 which covered the delivery of the dialogue workshops. This final published evaluation report focuses on a greater range of outcomes and brings all elements together to make a more detailed set of conclusions.

[48] Or sometimes the social or psychological factors affecting that reasoning. For more on this, see https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/approach/realist_evaluation

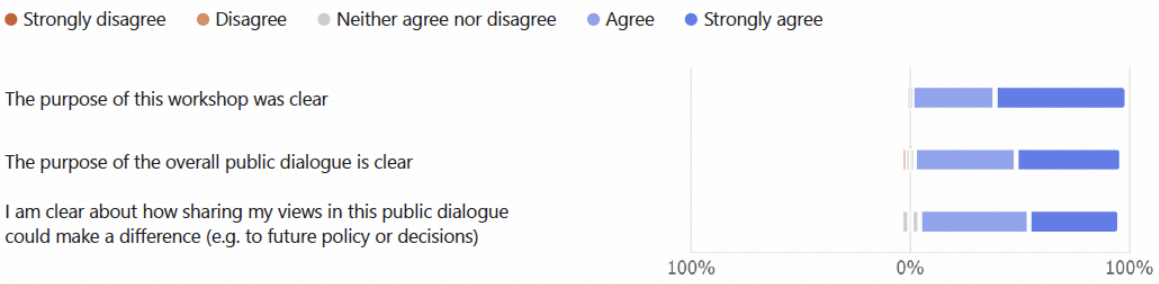
Appendix C: Participant survey findings

Survey following first in-person workshop

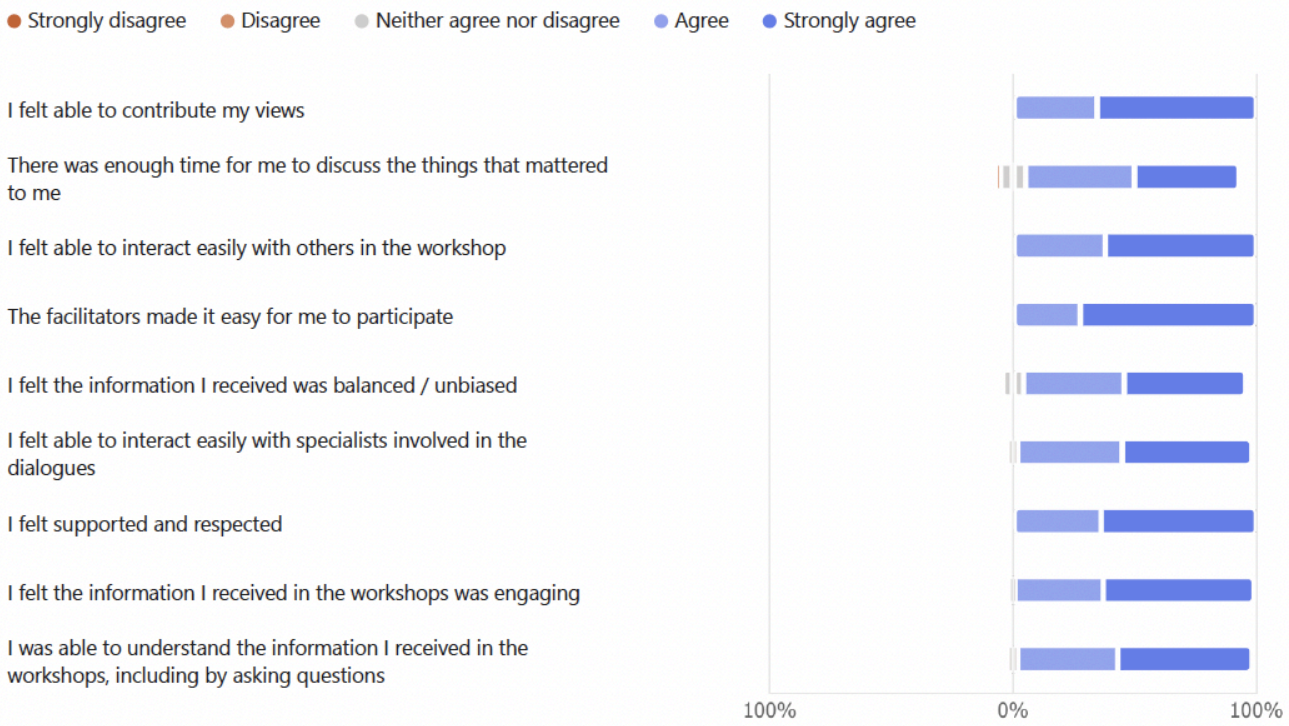
3. How would you describe your gender?

Female	28
Male	30
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	0
Other	0

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements **about what the workshop is for?**



5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements **about your involvement in the workshop?**



6. How easy or difficult have you found using the Recollective participant website?

7. Tell us more about your answer – what was difficult about using Recollective?

1
Responses

Latest Responses
...

8. Do you have any comments about how well the venue worked for the workshop?

45
Responses

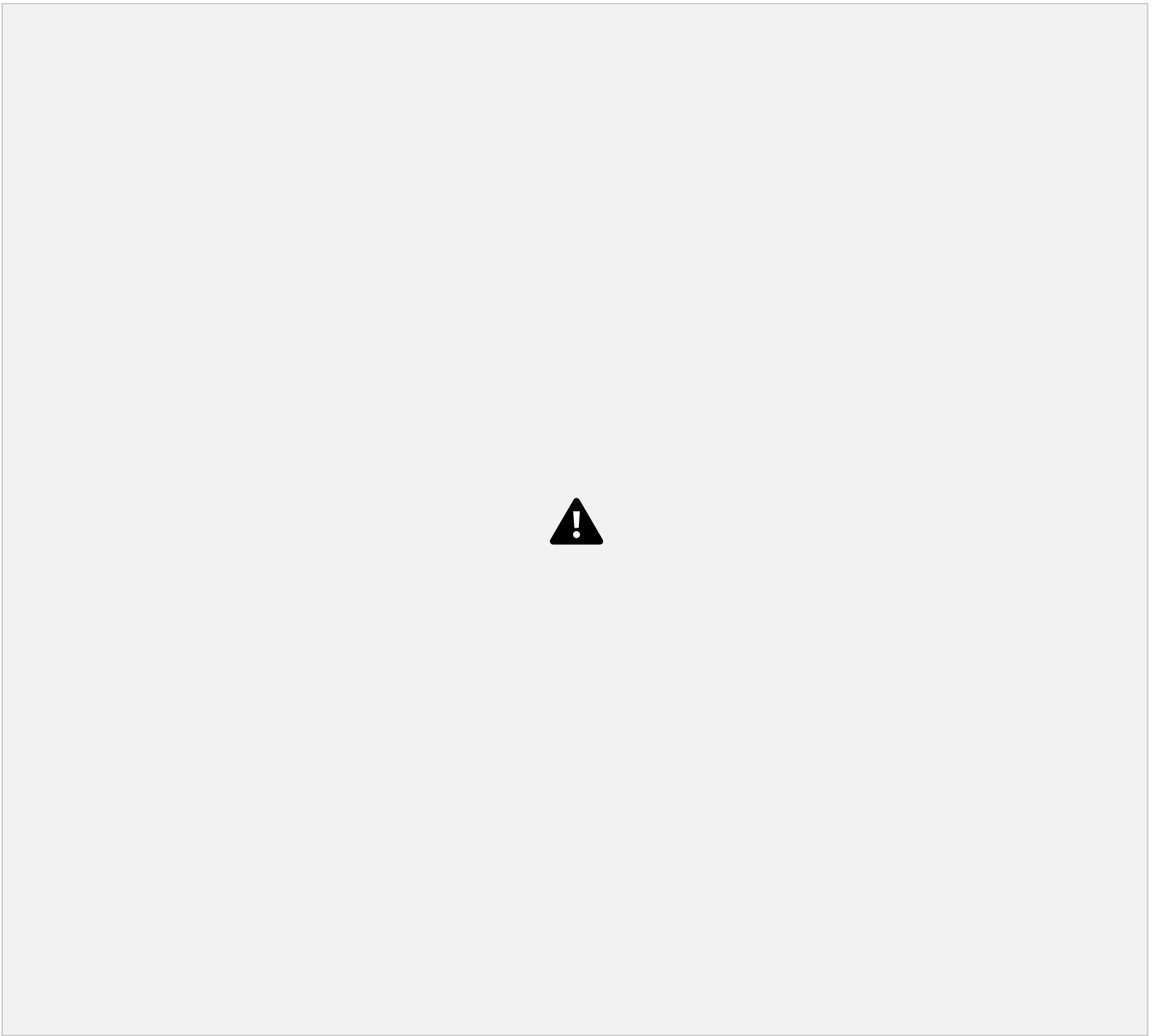
Latest Responses
"Was fine"
...

9. Anything else you'd like to say about your experience of being involved in the dialogue so far?

36
Responses

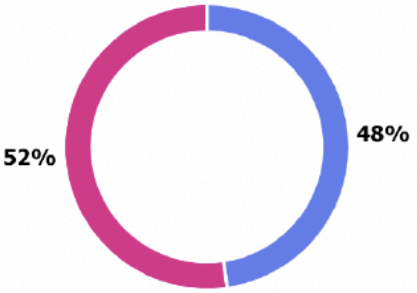
Latest Responses
"Lno"
...

Following second and final in-person workshop

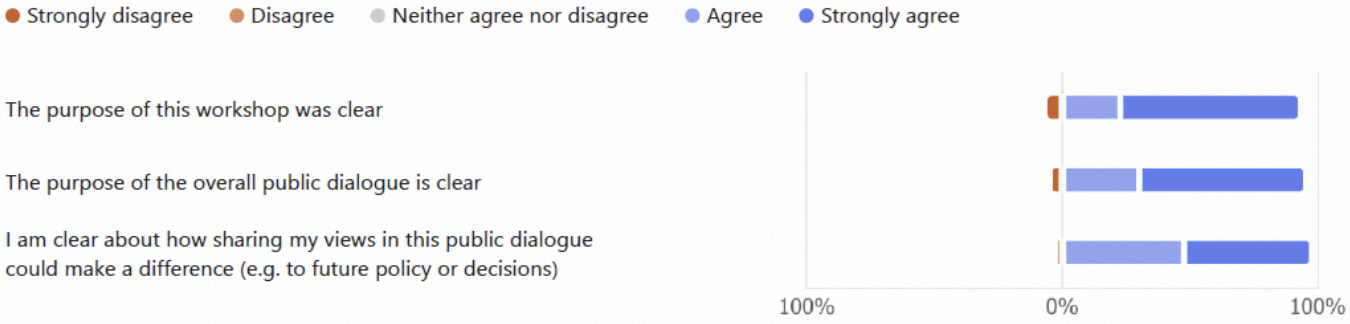


3. How would you describe your gender?

Female	21
Male	23
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	0
Other	0



4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements **about what the workshop is for?**



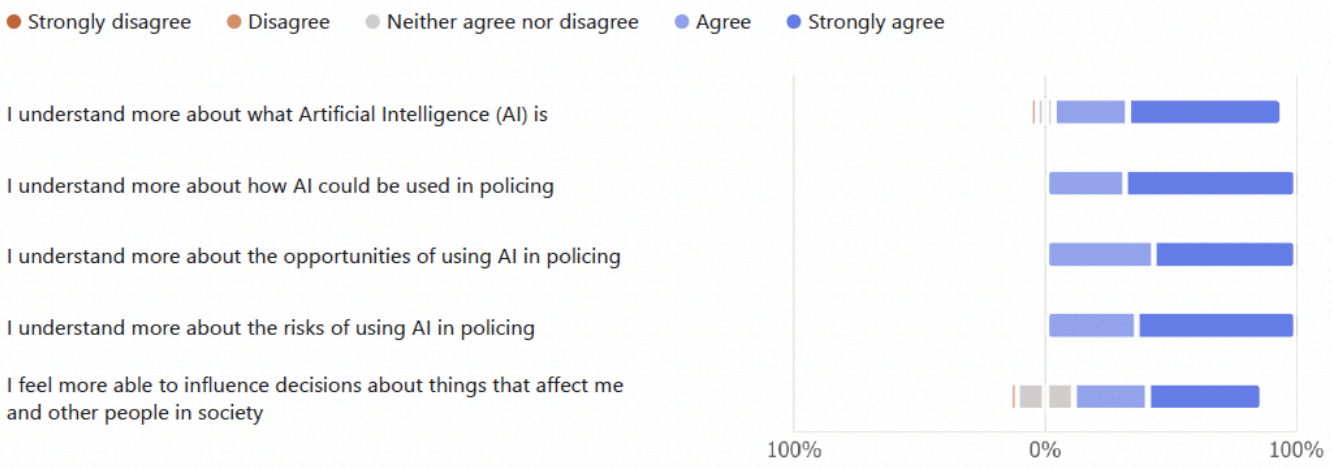
5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements **about your involvement in the workshop?**

6. Do you have any comments about how well the venue worked for the workshop?

34
Responses

Latest Responses
"Everything was fine"
"Excellent venue. Good space to think about the important issues without dis... "
"Easy for everyone to get to, very centra"
...

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements **about the impacts that have happened for you as a result of taking part in the dialogue?**



8. How do you feel about the use of AI in policing, compared to before you took part in the dialogue process?

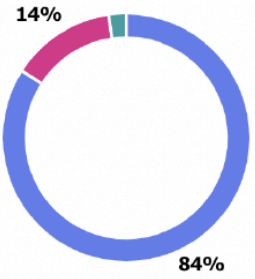
9. Have there been any other changes for you as a result of taking part in this dialogue?

32
Responses

Latest Responses
"Not really"
"I have begun thinking more about the job losses as a result if the use of A I s..."
"Really interesting to see a balanced debate on AI in policing"
...

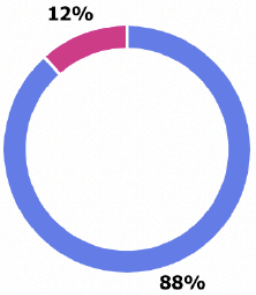
10. Overall, how satisfied have you felt with your involvement in the dialogue?

Very satisifed	37
Fairly satisfied	6
Not very satisifed	1
Not at all satisfied	0



11. Based on your experience with this process, how likely are you to be willing to take part in a similar public dialogue process in th e future?

Very likely	38
Fairly likely	5
Fairly unlikely	0
Very unlikely	0



12. Anything else you'd like to say about your experience of being involved in the dialogue so far?

24
Responses

Latest Responses
"Sometimes the dialogue seemed a little rushed"
"I have learnt so much about a.i and the ethical uses. How a.i.can be used pos..."
...