

CPG Minutes

Digital Rights and Democracy - Biometric Data in Schools session.

Date: 27 June 2022

Attendees:

Nicco Kunzmann (NK)

Chloe Rees (CR)

Anne Tischer (AT)

Lynne Davies (LD)

Clair Gwilliam (CG)

Maddy Stone (MS)

Sarah Murphy MS (SM)

Jen Pearsson (JP)

Emily H (EH)

David Clubb (DC)

Pippa King (PK)

Agenda, Notes and Actions

SM opens meeting.

SM explains interest through research inspiration from a child who did not want to be on social media. Emphasis on children's rights. Lack of oversight and knowledge from WG regarding the use of biometric data in schools. Consent forms from schools are stating that biometric data is safer and schools believe this. WG has been made aware and Minister for ED is open to learning more.

SM wants to ban use in schools and thanks expertise for their time.

Action 1. SM to hold debate in Senedd on potential ban

SM hands to PK.

PK gives insight and explains how 1998 data protection did not include biometric data. There is a 17 year history of biometrics in schools. PK has been lobbying Parliament for 7 years. Lack of insight from GOV. 58% of schools are using. ICO no idea who supplying tech. Global companies producing them.

- CRB Cunninghams, Bio Star, Canadian Consultation Software

PK states FOI requests no cost to school. Tech companies advertise tech as growing with children. This is learning facial recognition.

Authorities do not know what tech is being used. We know it originates from military defence equipment.

Likewise no GOV officials are on top of it. UK is biggest use of biometrics in Western world.

Banned in Florida.

PK hands to SM.

SM states 2/3 schools using biometric data. SM states body of children are being used as a transaction for food. There is justification based on nothing.

Action 2. SM to discuss with new Children Commissioner.

SM hands to MS

MS introduces Big Brother Watch and works to expose the power imbalance of tech companies. this imbalance is entering schools. Authoritarian Governments have no place in a democracy.

MS notes the dazzling PR experts associated with tech companies and stresses the danger of being unaware of usage.

No evidence that this tech works. Children as guinea pigs.

SM hands to JP

JP - ICO cannot have capacity to deal with. Undermines children's rights and right to privacy. Fallacy that tech is neutral