# Facial Recognition Technology Funding and Controversies in London



**Facial Recognition Technology in London Policing: Funding and Controversies**

The Metropolitan Police in London has received an additional £500,000 for live facial recognition (LFR) operations against knife-related and other criminal offenses. This funding is part of a broader £4 million investment from the Home Office aimed at developing new technologies such as systems to detect knives from a distance and hand-held or body-worn devices for officers. The use of LFR has already led to several arrests, including individuals wanted for firearms and drug offenses and a suspected double rapist, according to policing minister Chris Philp.

However, the deployment of facial recognition technology has sparked concerns about privacy, accuracy, and potential racial bias, leading to debates about whether it represents a "Big Brother" state. As violent crime, including knife and gun crime, has surged by 20% in the past year, authorities seek a balance between enhancing security and safeguarding individual liberties.

**New River Crossing Approved in East London**

Planning permission has been granted for a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Lea by Tower Hamlets, with Newham expected to follow. The Ailsa Wharf Footbridge aims to improve access to community facilities and public transport, linking with the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. This local cooperation contrasts with the ongoing disputes over funding for fixing the Hammersmith Bridge, which has been closed to motor vehicles for five years.

**Cultural Highlights: London’s Talent and Creativity**

London has seen a surge of five-star reviews in the Evening Standard, with notable mentions including "Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection" at the V&A, "People, Places & Things" at the Trafalgar Theatre, and "Roe in Canary Wharf," described as one of the year's standout restaurant openings.

**Conclusion**

This article provides an overview of emerging policing technologies, urban development projects, and cultural events in London, highlighting ongoing debates and achievements in the capital.

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