



# *From Law to Practice* AI Accountability as practical mechanism for responsible AI

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CENTRIC

— “ —

As far as catching a criminal quickly or finding a missing person is concerned, I think that any sensible person would vote in favour of using AI. ESTONIA

— ” —

POLICE SHOULD BE HELD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY USE AI



90%  
agree



8%  
neutral



2%  
disagree

67%  
agree

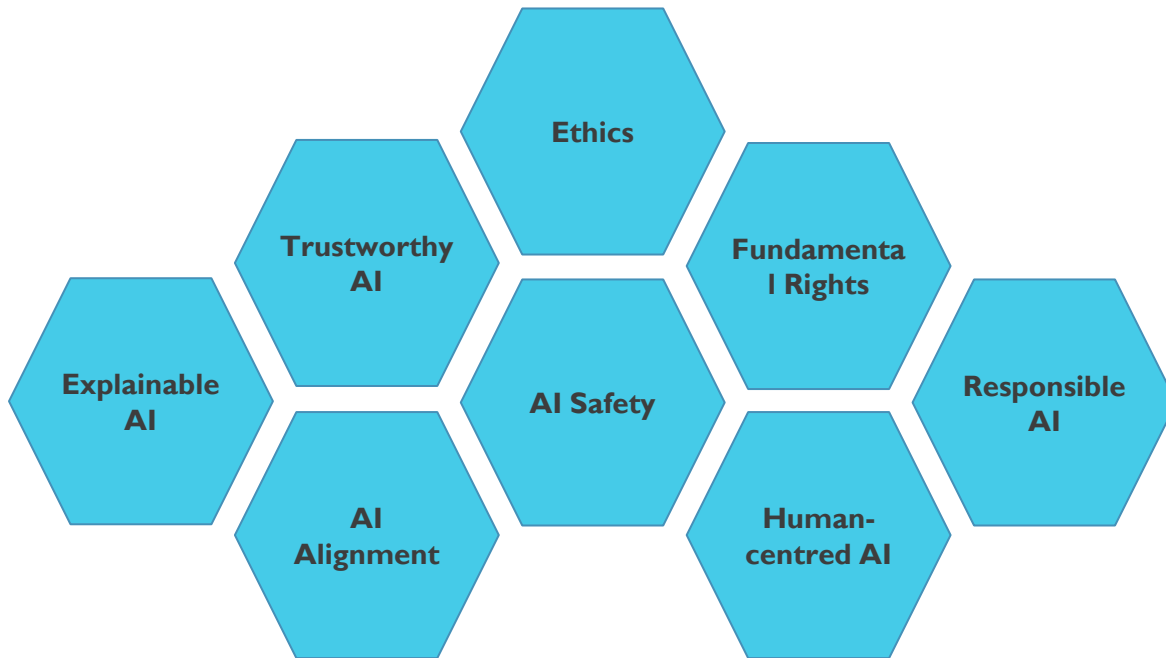


8%  
disagree



THE SECURITY OF SOCIETY PROFITS GREATLY FROM POLICE USE OF AI

# AI Accountability



***Purpose of accountability: “preventing  
and redressing abuses of power”***  
(Schedler, 1999:14)

**Accountability is bound to enforceable obligations  
and thus actionable.**

**justification + monitoring + enforcement**

→ Creates a *practical mechanism* to ensure that legitimate interests (as well as concerns, fears and hopes) of all stakeholders are engaged with and factored in throughout the full decision-making process about LEAs’ AI capabilities.

# PRACTICAL AI ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Laws and regulations**
- **AI system and tools**
- **Data**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Risk assessment and management**
- **Oversight and redress process**
- **Accountability evidence**
- **Adaptability and learning**



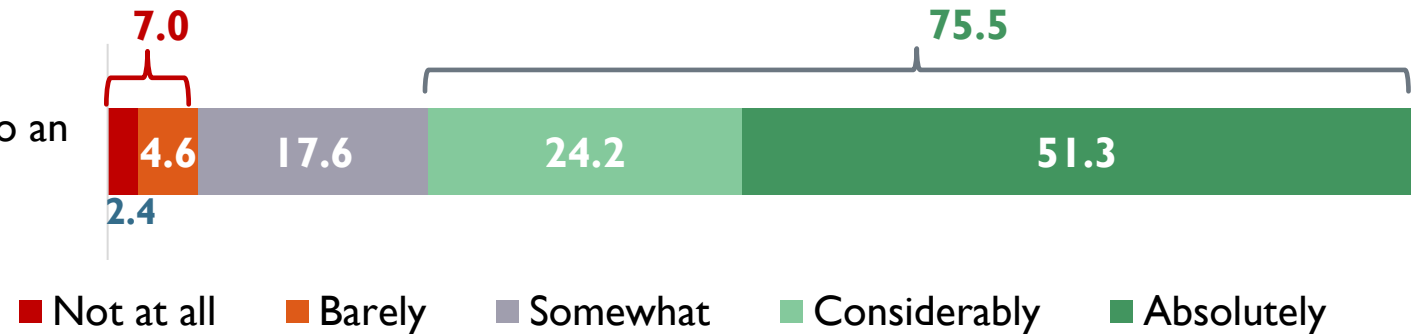
# ADDRESSING DIRECT PUBLIC CONCERNS

(CENTRIC NATIONAL CITIZEN CONSULTATION, 2025)

## A majority of people want accountability in place before AI is deployed

*% of people that say AI accountability should be mandatory*

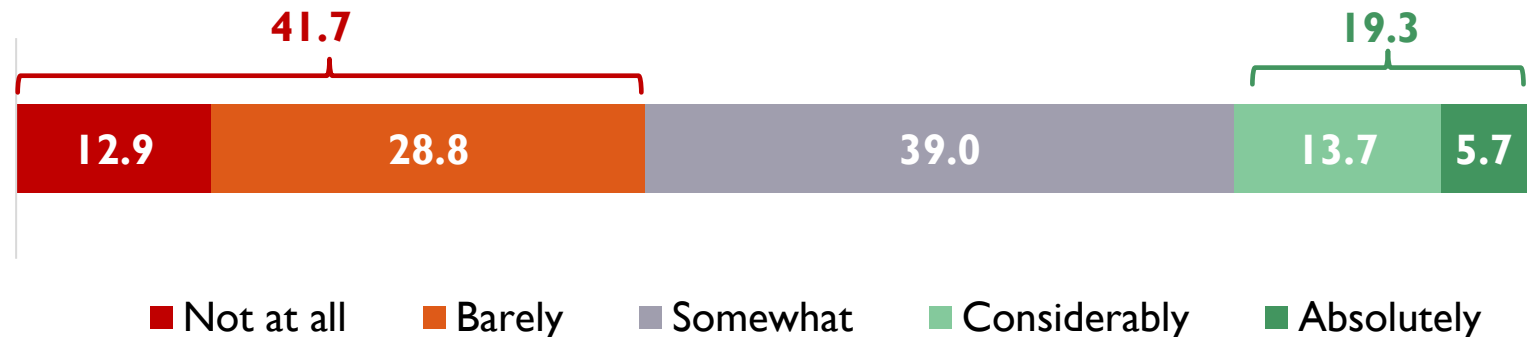
Should it be mandatory for AI systems in policing to undergo an accountability process before they are deployed?



## Only a minority of people perceive sufficient accountability in AI use of police

*% of people that say there is sufficient accountability*

Is there sufficient accountability when police use AI?



# Practical AI Accountability

**CENTRIC**

Centre of Excellence in Terrorism,  
Resilience, Intelligence and  
Organised Crime Research

# AIPAS

AI Accountability for Policing and Security

## Guidance for Implementing AI Accountability in Policing

May 2025



### Theme 1: AI System

**Purpose:** This theme defines what the AI system does, how it functions, its purpose, limitations and who is responsible for its development and oversight. This helps ensure the system is suitable for its stated aims, explainable to relevant audiences, and aligned with legal and ethical standards. The better a police organisation details the AI system, the more effectively it can assess its appropriateness, identify potential challenges and implement safeguards.

AI Accountability Principles addressed: Lawfulness, Proof, Completeness, Explainability, Transparency, Enforceability and Redress

### Guidance

#### Need, requirements and features

##### Step 1: Understand the need for the AI system

It is important to **set out the need for a specific AI system and justify why it is the appropriate solution** compared to conventional methods or other AI systems.

Much of the information that demonstrates the need would sit within a business case, and each AI system that is being developed, procured or deployed will require its own justification. In identifying the need, a force will start to shape the requirements of the AI system, which can be fed into a development, procurement, deployment or decommissioning strategy. Where possible, principles such as JAPAN (Justified, Accountable, Proportionate, Auditable, Necessary) should be applied.

##### Step 2: Identify the requirements and features of the AI system

Each AI system will have different requirements and features based on the identified need for the AI system, so it is important that these are carefully considered and documented.

A policing organisation should, at the very minimum, have a record of:

- How the AI system will be used (purpose and implementation)
- The AI system's functionalities and features, including its models/algorithms

A policing organisation must also consider its **own IT requirements such as ISO accreditations and cybersecurity certifications** and how these standards apply or impact the procurement/use of the AI system.

- **concise, step-by-step guidance on how to implement AI accountability** for police Chief Officer Teams, Enabling Services involved in the procurement and deployment of AI systems and oversight bodies.
- **considerations, safeguards and resources to put into place for a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management for AI in UK policing.**

## Accountability Principles for Artificial Intelligence

AP4AI Self-Assessment

## AI Accountability for Policing and Security

Username

Username...

Next

- **secure web application** for the comprehensive risk assessment and management of AI capabilities across the AI lifecycle: development, procurement, operational deployment, migration and decommissioning.

### Core features:

- evidence and auditing (stable IDs, time-stamped edits, artefact links) to create reproducible records;
- versioned templates and a 'safe upgrade/migration' functionality to allow policy improvements without losing history;
- collaboration platform to allow operational leads, legal/DPO, information security and suppliers cooperative
- one-click reports for boards and (where appropriate) the public;

### More information about CENTRIC:

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### More information about AP4AI + AIPAS

- [ap4ai.eu](https://ap4ai.eu) / [aipas.co.uk](https://aipas.co.uk)
- Email: [centric@shu.ac.uk](mailto:centric@shu.ac.uk)



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# AP4AI

Accountability Principles for AI

