

Good Practice Guidance Material

[The Biometrics Institute](#) is the independent and impartial international membership organisation for biometric users and other interested parties. The member register which represents a global and diverse multi-stakeholder community now lists over 200 membership organisations from 43 countries.

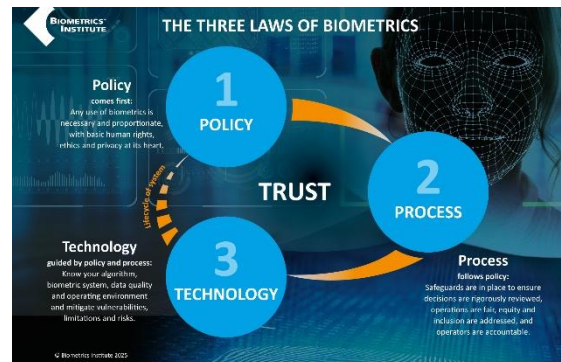
At a time when legislation, policies and standards are struggling to keep up with developments and new applications in biometric technology, the work of the Biometrics Institute is extremely important.

General guidance and risk management frameworks

The Three Laws of Biometrics

The Biometrics Institute has devised the *Three Laws of Biometrics* to prompt people using biometrics to remember the fundamentals of applying the technology responsibly and ethically.

The laws should be used to guide members in their implementations, and crucially in the order in which tasks should be carried out. They were first released in October 2020.



Good Practice Framework*



In 2019 we began working on the *Biometrics Institute Good Practice Framework*. This document is a first-of-its-kind good practice tool that outlines the stages of the strategic planning, procurement and operation of a biometric system or network.

Its primary function is to provide a structured pathway through the factors that may influence or constrain a biometric application.

The framework was officially launched to our members in July 2020.

The Biometrics Essentials learning tool

This online course provides an educational overview based on the ethics and good practices you should consider when implementing a biometric system. The learner will gain insight into the complex decision-making processes involved in implementing biometrics, as well as understanding the impact these decisions can have on biometric users. The course is based on the Institute's Good Practice Framework and was first released in March 2023, with English subtitles and a Spanish version being added in February 2024.





[Procurement Guidelines*](#)

This guide for procuring biometric solutions provides clear, actionable insights, walking you through every stage of procurement, from defining your needs to managing organisational change and evaluating the market.

It is a living document, intended to evolve with the latest insights and best practices in biometric procurement. It was first released in 2025.

[Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and sharing of Biometrics in Counter-terrorism](#)

This guideline is an initiative of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and is a joint project with the Biometrics Institute. It was released by the United Nations on the 29 June 2018. The compendium provides practical guidance to help address developments in biometrics in the context of counter-terrorism and helps member states fulfil their commitments under resolutions 2322 and 2396.

[Understanding Biometrics – Considerations for Implementing a Biometric System*](#)

Understanding Biometrics is intended to be a simple, accessible and usable resource for members to refer to when considering the use and appropriateness of a biometric system, particularly for first time users. It is also relevant and useful for anyone contemplating upgrading their current system.

The guide is a living document and will be updated regularly to keep up with innovations in biometric technology and other developments including vulnerabilities, testing and privacy concerns. It was published in 2016.

Policy and data protection

[Privacy Guidelines*](#)

Our *Privacy Guidelines* are the first comprehensive and universal privacy guidelines for biometrics. They outline key privacy issues that need addressing when introducing biometrics. The guidelines are updated every two years by our Privacy Expert Group with input from many different sectors. They include 18 principles including proportionality, informed consent, protection of biometrics data and purpose and sharing of biometric data. They were first published in 2006 and are being updated every two years, mostly recently in 2025.



[Privacy Awareness Checklist*](#)

The Privacy Awareness Checklist (PAC) is designed to be a simple and concise resource to raise awareness of privacy concerns whilst being universally useable. It encourages organisations to discuss their Personal Information processing, assess risks and threats, consider privacy awareness and training, and maintain a strong privacy and data protection environment. The PAC was revised in 2022.

[Ethical Principles for Biometrics](#)

The *Ethical Principles for Biometrics* are a clear indication of the Biometrics Institute's commitment to promote the ethical and responsible use of biometrics. It has been compiled by a diverse group of our members including our Privacy Expert Group, biometrics experts and government employees. It contains seven simple principles and a call to action to promote them amongst peers. They were released in March 2019.

Process and applications

[Digital Onboarding and Biometrics*](#)

This paper offers a high-level overview of how biometrics intersects with digital identity onboarding to guide decision-makers considering, or already implementing, the use of biometrics in online sign-ups. The document covers re-use of an existing digital identity, considerations in the process of attaching a digital identity to a person, de-duplication, guidance in formulating strategies, and making ethical and responsible decisions in biometric applications. It was published in March 2021.

[Digital Identity and Biometric Authentication*](#)

Published in 2023, this paper sets out recommended good practices for implementing biometric authentication in a secure and effective manner. It includes considerations around business benefits, the impact on other authentication mechanisms, the reuse of digital identities, and managing on-device biometrics.

[Mitigating Biometric Vulnerabilities in Digital Identity – Executive Briefing*](#)

Designed to equip executives and stakeholders with the knowledge necessary to secure their digital identity systems, this briefing provides a clear and high-level overview of biometric vulnerability risks associated with digital identity and how adversaries might exploit these vulnerabilities in your biometric systems. The key considerations referenced in the briefing are also available as additional slides, perfect for quickly conveying the most important information in a visually engaging format. Published in 2024.

[Biometrics and Account Recovery*](#)

This guide, published in 2025, explains what account recovery is, how an account can be lost, and why biometrics are important to account recovery. It provides essential recommendations for designing a secure and user-friendly recovery process, including how to strengthen identity binding and ensuring longevity over time.

[Facial Recognition Technology \(FRT\) in Public Places: Key Questions Before You Start*](#)

A strategic guiding paper designed to help organisations navigate the complex policy and procedural issues of FRT in public places. The paper, released in 2026, is accompanied by the *Facial Recognition Use Case Matrix*, which provides assistance by outlining various FRT applications in public spaces.

[Biometrics in Use Signage](#)



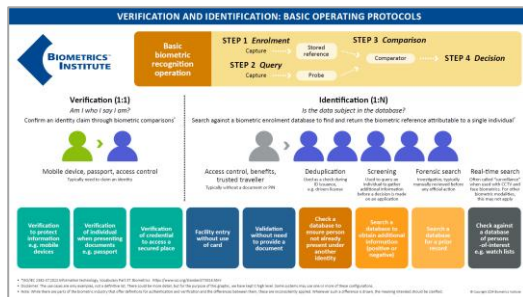
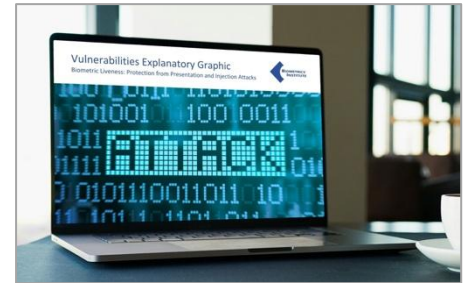
This standardised signage is a proactive initiative by the Biometrics Institute to facilitate informed notice in publicly accessible spaces.

Recognising the complexities of managing consent, the Institute's members proposed a consistent signal to ensure the public can rely on a familiar graphic wherever biometric usage occurs.

Technology

[Biometric Liveness: Protection from Presentation and Injection Attacks explanatory graphic*](#)

This graphic is designed to make the complex topic of biometric vulnerabilities easy to understand for both technical and non-technical audiences. It illustrates, in one clear flow, how a biometric transaction moves from acquisition to liveness checks and biometric comparison. And where attacks may occur. It was published in May 2026.



[Verification \(1:1\) and identification \(1:n\) explanatory graphics](#)

These two graphics are a simple illustration and definition of verification and identification; two terms that have led to much confusion in the biometrics industry. They clarify basic biometric recognition operation and explore different use cases for verification and identification to aid understanding. The graphics were revised in 2024 with the addition of accompanying explanatory videos.

[Biometrics and Hygiene Considerations*](#)

Biometrics and Hygiene Considerations provides an overview of the issues around biometric systems and hygiene and addresses concerns in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper also references currently available research and suggests questions and considerations to help members reduce potential risks and make informed decisions. It was published in June 2020.

[Top 10 Vulnerability Questions*](#)

A guiding document that provides clarification around some of the frequently asked questions about the spoofing of biometrics including:

- Can my biometric be stolen or compromised?
- How hard is it to steal a biometric?
- What if my biometric gets stolen or compromised?
- Are biometrics a good alternative to passwords?

It was first published in 2015 and revised in 2020.

[Biometrics Vulnerability Checklist*](#)

This list complements the *Top 10 Vulnerability Questions* and has been prepared to help guide members in addressing vulnerability assessments in biometrics. It addresses questions like, what are the common vulnerabilities for your technology? Do you have a risk management plan, and does it include the potential for biometric vulnerability? It was first published in 2016 and revised in 2020.

[Presentation Attack Detection \(PAD\) and Liveness Guiding Document*](#)

This document explains what PAD and liveness is and suggests some general considerations and questions users may want to ask when choosing a biometric product. It also points to standards and additional information sources available. It was first published in 2018 and revised in 2020.

[Top 10 Takeaways: NIST Demographic Effects Report*](#)

The Biometrics Institute has put together a list of top 10 takeaways from the very detailed [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Face Recognition Vendor Test \(FRVT\) Part 3: Demographic Effects Report](#), published 19 Dec 2019. The first page comprises our key takeaways while the subsequent pages give more detail on each of these points and references them to the original NIST report.

Further information-thought leadership and reports

In addition to this guiding material, the Institute publishes information providing insights into trends, critical issues or future developments.

[Should we ban Facial Recognition Viewpoint Paper \(January 2021\)](#)

Biometrics are complex, different use cases present different levels of risk which need to be assessed, planned and managed carefully. Using biometrics responsibly, requires informed decision-making. This paper sets out different member perspectives to provide a balanced view on facial recognition.

[State of Biometrics Report*](#)

This report explores the trends, issues and challenges facing the industry and defines priority themes which the Institute will monitor on an ongoing basis and discusses with members at its various events.



[20-Year Anniversary Report](#)

This report marked the 20-year anniversary of the Biometrics Institute on the 11 October 2021. More importantly, however, this report celebrates the work of the Biometrics Institute over the past twenty years, which together with the support of its members, has provided a platform for a balanced discussion promoting the responsible and ethical use of biometrics and a deeper understanding of the biometrics industry. It includes 30 submissions highlighting the positive advancements biometrics have provided us with over the past 20 years and how members have recognised the challenges and worked towards good practices to ensure responsible and ethical implementation.

[Members' concepts and solutions for the future of responsible biometrics](#)

This 2025 edition of the Biometrics Institute Concepts and Solutions Report explores the future of responsible biometrics, examining emerging trends and solutions from our members.

[Annual Industry Survey*](#)

The Biometrics Institute conducts an annual industry survey as a service to members to provide insight into different trends and important developments in the biometrics industry. The 30-page report also gives greater understanding into the projections and expectations for the industry in the coming year. Slides highlight some of the findings are available for members to use in their communication.

For further information or if you are interested in membership please visit our website at www.biometricsinstitute.org or email member@biometricsinstitute.org.

** Documents marked with an asterisk are members-only documents while the others are publicly available. All documents can be accessed in the website information hub.*