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Dear Miss King,

Freedom of Information request reference: 39290 - Biometric information of children in schools

Thank you for your e-mail of 12 April 2016, in which you ask for information to be released regarding the '**Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Part 1 — Regulation of biometric data Chapter 2 — Protection of biometric information of children in schools etc**'. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the following information as requested.

- a) *Please advise in the 'Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Part 1 — Regulation of biometric data Chapter 2 — Protection of biometric information of children in schools etc', whether this part of the legislation is applicable to educational establishments in Scotland and Northern Ireland?*

Part 1 Chapter 1 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (POFA) deals with police use in England and Wales of DNA and fingerprint information taken from arrested persons and volunteers in the course of criminal investigations. The Home Office was responsible for this legislation. Part 1 Chapter 2 of POFA deals with use of biometrics for school entry and security systems. DfE was responsible for this legislation. However the answer to the question can be found by looking at section 119 of POFA which states:

This section has no associated Explanatory Notes

(1)The following provisions extend to England and Wales only—

(a)sections 1 to 18, 23 and 24,

(b)Chapter 2 of Part 1

- b) *Please advise if the Protection of Freedoms Act Implementation Board looked at (Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) 'Part 1 — Regulation of biometric data Chapter 2 — Protection of biometric information of children in schools etc' and if so what their findings were and if not why did the Board not look at this section of the act?*

The role of the POFA implementation board was to reform police use of DNA and fingerprints in England and Wales to make it conform with POFA Part 1 Chapter 1 so it did not look at use of biometrics in schools

Yours sincerely,

Police Science and Technology Unit