



## Biometric Recognition – Appendix 2

### Information for Visitors

Section 110(ra) and (rb) of the *Prisons Act 1981* and r 53B of the Prisons Regulations 1982 establish the CEO's lawful power to direct that visitors to prisons are to confirm their identity by submitting to an iris scan, as a condition of entry to (and exit from) a prison.

The direction by the CEO (the Commissioner), is made in [Policy Directive 67](#), at section 2.2. Currently, this requirement only applies to social visitors attending a maximum security prison.

#### Frequently asked questions

##### What happens when I visit?

After the visitor has (on their first visit), provided the necessary forms of identification and signed the required declaration, they will be asked to sign another document agreeing to undergoing an iris scan whenever they enter or leave the prison. As the iris scan is a condition of entry, you may be refused entry if you do not give your consent.

##### What is it?

A Biometric scan is a form of technology that electronically scans an individual's biological features (in this case the iris), and translates the image into an algorithm (a group of numbers). It does **not** store an image of your iris. The technology stores the scan in a way that you can **not** be identified but enables highly accurate and speedy subsequent identification by electronically comparing subsequent scans with the original recorded data.

##### How does it work?

When you come in for your visit you will be asked to stand in front of a small iris reader (like a camera) and look into the mirror. When you are within 50 cm [1.64 ft.] of the front of the iris reader, automatic voice guidance will help you move to the correct position where you can see both eyes in the mirror.

The machine will then scan your eyes. During this process you will be approx. 30-40 cm away from the reader. This technology is completely safe to use. The first scan captures the iris images of both eyes and generates iris data as an algorithm which is stored in a separate and secure location. The enrolment process is quick and easy and on all subsequent visits to see a prisoner the scan take approx. 1 second to verify your identity.

##### Why is it necessary?

To improve the overall safety and security of visitors and staff in maximum security prison environments, as well as reducing the risk of escape by a prisoner.