

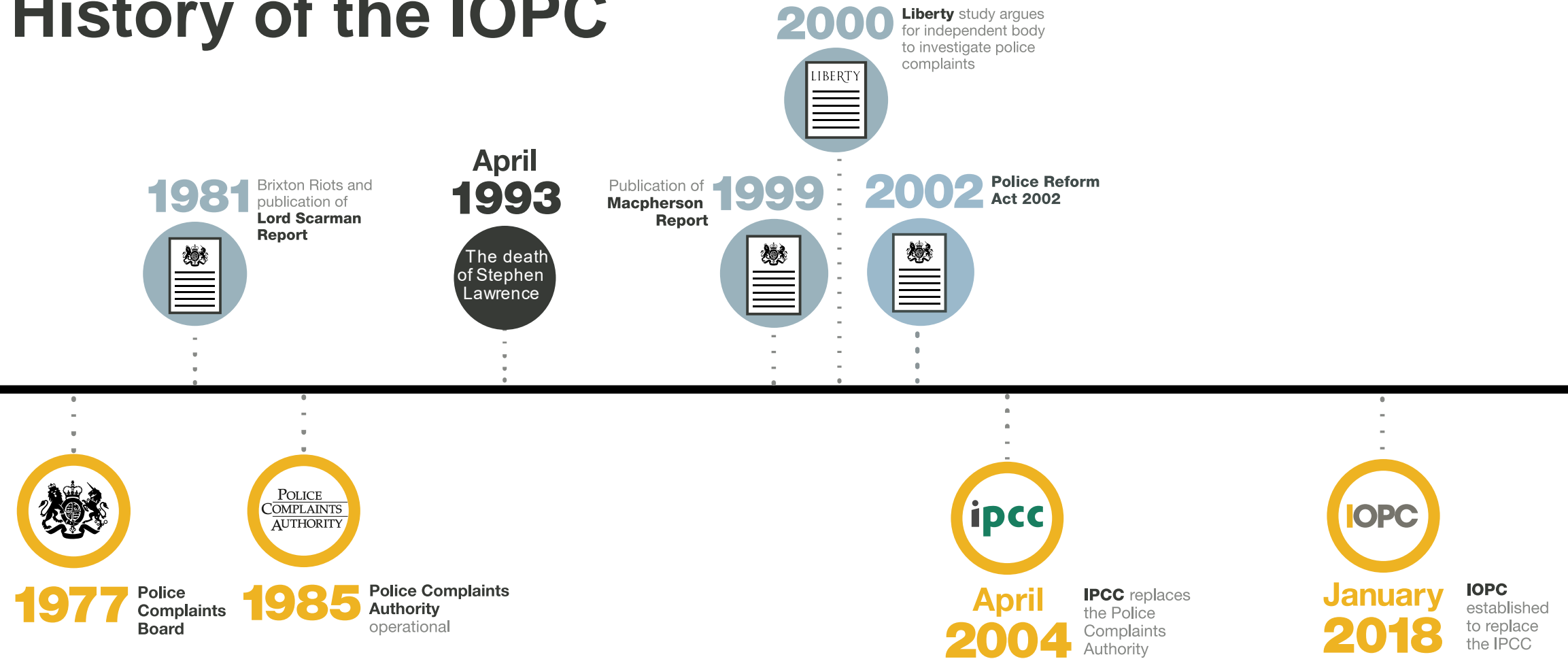
Getting ready for AI at the IOPC: What is the problem, and is AI the solution?

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History of the IOPC



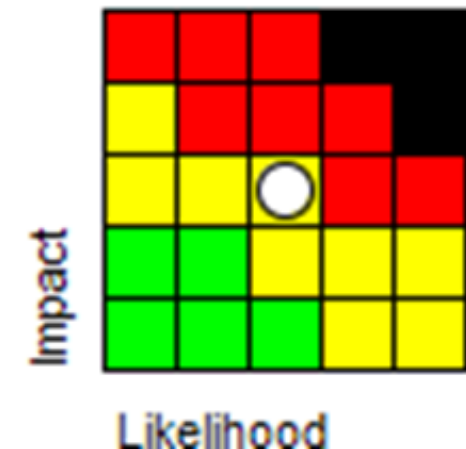
The situation

- Records fall into two main categories:
 - operational (investigations, often highly sensitive);
 - corporate
- Accountability and transparency are key, especially for major investigations such as Hillsborough
- [AIIM State of the Industry Report 2023](#): most people not currently deploying AI in Information Management – this is set to change

Our mission is to improve policing by independent oversight of police complaints, holding police to account and ensuring learning effects change.

Organisational context

- Arms'-length public body with budget settlements agreed annually
- Occasional unexpected funding boosts: need to be ready with proposals e.g. AI Readiness Assessments
- Low risk appetite, especially for major investigations where there is high public interest in the records
- High-level template risk assessment completed on introducing AI to our ways of working



Archives context

- ‘Digital heap’: large amounts of relatively unstructured files stored on shared drives
 - Beyond shared drives: Case Management Systems and HOLMES; legal records system; communications database, email servers...
- Key issues to address:
 - De-duplication of digital files across repositories
 - Sorting of large volumes of digital records to facilitate appraisal
 - Sensitivity review and cataloguing: dedicated team working on these, but open to exploring some degree of automation (not necessarily AI) to streamline

What can AI offer?

Classification and data extraction models: trained to automatically sort different record types and extract key metadata.

- Examples: [Conquering the Digital Heap – Cabinet Office Digital \(blog.gov.uk\)](#); ‘Datalift’ from [Automated Intelligence](#)

AI-assisted sensitivity review: trained to identify and suggest redactions for sensitive information from context.

- Example: [Digital records sensitivity review - FCDO Services](#)

Generative AI: potential for automated summaries for finding aids, captions, etc.

- Example: Society of American Archivists AI [statement](#)

Are we ready?

- **Records Management Roadmap** has factored in use of automation for de-duplication and AI for sorting and appraisal.
- **Data Governance Framework** (in progress) to facilitate and provide assurance of information maturity required to support AI capability.
- **Data Quality work** (in progress) will include the creation of an organizational trust score for data which could inform use of AI in future.
- **Cost / benefit analysis** to establish what can be done with AI vs. without it, including more accurate forecasting of our needs.
- **Consultation planning** to research existing work on AI in government departments and other industries and better understand its potential
- Aim: AI fully integrated into our Records Management and Archive work, not a novelty side project or optional extra.

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