HART — Durham Constabulary's Machine-Learning Custody-Risk Tool

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Durham Constabulary (UK) used a machine-learning tool, developed with Cambridge, to classify arrestees' reoffending risk for custody decisions from 2016-2021, screening over 12,000 people; independent research later found accuracy near chance (53.8%), leading to discontinuation.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-06

Durham Constabulary, developed with the University of Cambridge — accessed 2026-08-06

Fair Trials: FOI reveals 12,000+ people profiled by flawed AI tool — accessed 2026-08-06

University of Cambridge: Helping police make custody decisions using AI — accessed 2026-08-06

Policing (Oxford Academic): peer-reviewed evaluation — accessed 2026-08-06

International Journal of Law and Information Technology: legal analysis — accessed 2026-08-06

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