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Airports urged to use face scans

(UKPA) – 3 days ago

Passengers are being urged to use facial recognition gates at airports after a successful trial of the technology.

The state of the art machines scan passengers' faces and check them against their passport photo.

The UK Border Agency said the technology makes it easier for legitimate passengers to travel while making it more difficult for criminals and illegal migrants to get into the country.

The facial recognition gates are now fully operational at three UK airports, as part of one of the biggest shake-ups in UK border security for 40 years.

They were first installed at Manchester and London Stansted airports last year, where the first phase of the trial was launched.

More than half a million passengers have used the service so far.

Bristol International was the first airport to go live this year on August 26.

UK Border Agency chief executive Lin Homer said: "Britain's border security is among the toughest in the world and by using new technology we are making the border even more secure. The facial recognition gates at Bristol will improve our service to the public and help to make the UK safer.

"We have also introduced fingerprint visas which check everyone who wants to come to the UK against immigration and crime databases, ID Cards for foreign nationals and the £1.2bn e-Borders system which targets terrorist suspects, criminals and would-be illegal immigrants before they can reach the UK."

The technology has been installed at a total of 10 UK terminals - including two at Manchester, Stansted and Bristol - with the remaining likely to go live later this year.

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