Perspectives: Biometrics and the Chain of Trust

Video Transcript

Graham Zebedee - Head, Border Security Unit (BSU), UK Home Office

Biometrics I think biometrics currently offer the best possibility that we have in order to know that a person is actually who they claim to be. I know for the UK it is the absolute cornerstone of our Visa system.

Isabelle Moeller – Chief Executive, The Biometrics Institute

Trust is the absolute key and I go to quite a few events that engage with the public and when I hear people talk about biometrics there is always that great fear about who is going to use that biometric information.

Graham Zebedee - Head, Border Security Unit (BSU), UK Home Office

It offers far more than biographical information ever could when it comes to verifying someone’s identity at the time they apply for a visa for example and then when they get to a border.

A question for us going forward is can we use biometrics more widely and I think a big question there is, not only the trust we can place in the information but the trust the public have in us to keep our information, biometric information particularly safe.

Isabelle Moeller – Chief Executive, The Biometrics Institute

Normally what you see in the media is stories about the iPhone get hacked or something gets compromised, the Government is just putting out surveillance camera and all of that.

The good stories never make it into the media and the question is how can we achieve that, because there are some amazing things helping people to re-establish their identity.

Graham Zebedee - Head, Border Security Unit (BSU), UK Home Office

I think it will take quite a long time. I think they will ask if I give my biometrics to Government, how will that speed my passage through the border for example and I think we have to have a clear answer for
them to that question in order for them let’s say register in a registered traveller scheme which involves giving finger print information or a digital photograph for example, which will speed their passage to the border.

Isabelle Moeller – Chief Executive, The Biometrics Institute

I would say it is exciting, we see there is a lot of interest, growing interest even outside the borders and travel sector. Even the retailers and payments people are moving into that space so if we get this right now and really promote the responsible use of biometrics and the public is reassured there is trust, I think there’s a great future for it.