

# A UK Perspective: The Use of modern technology

- Why Bother?



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# The Theory

Using biometrics fixes individuals to an identity so

- Assists the visa issuing process by revealing attempts to conceal an adverse history
- Assists the visa issuing process as it can confirm the identity of an applicant with good previous immigration history

# But also a key element of an integrated identity management



Biometrics collected from visa applicants also

- Permits biometric verification at the border to identify those travelling on stolen or forged documents
- Helps identify undocumented asylum seekers
- Assists in issuing any subsequent biometric residence permit

# Testing the theory

- Took Primary legislation in 2002
- Trialled two print collection in Sri Lanka in 2003
- Added further trail locations in 2004 and 2005



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# The results – It works

Including the first phase of the global roll out

- To date over 250,000 applicants have provided fingerprints
- Over 2,000 of these have matched fingerprints taken in the UK in connection with previous immigration matters.



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- For biometric visas to work effectively as a corner stone of an integrated border management strategy you need global collection with minimal exemptions
- To deliver that whilst keeping visa process accessible needs innovation and technology