

Assuming that the underlying technology could be made to work - possibly by using different biometrics in combination to obtain the requisite levels of performance - there remain huge question marks over the basic practicality of the whole idea of a biometrically based national ID card. In particular, we need to know how long it will take to enrol users in a real system; what percentage of the population will be unable to provide the required biometric (apparently around 1 in 70,000 of the population is born without an iris); what percentage of the population will be unable to travel to their local 'biometric registration centre'; how such exceptions can best be handled; and, assuming the scheme is self-financing, how much people will be prepared to pay for an ID card. The list just goes on and on.

[...]

In the interim, and substantially beyond, there is clearly still much to do. No country in the world has, as yet, attempted to create a biometric scheme on the functionality and scale envisaged by the UK's ID card scheme and you don't have to be remotely paranoid to find the whole prospect more than a little scary.