Are you looking at the original version?

By searching keywords on each social network we found earlier versions of the video. We confirmed that the weather and environmental conditions when the video was captured coincided with other visual evidence, such as shadows and lighting.

We questioned the uploader to confirm that they were at the location when the video was captured and that the weather conditions and any shadows visible matched the video. We also checked the timestamp on the earliest version uploaded to a social network, but we have no data to confirm when it was captured.

Each step is presented in graded traffic light colours to acknowledge that it is rarely possible to be 100% confident in every aspect of an eyewitness video.
Getting news right from the source

FirstDraft

Photos

Guide: Verification

Visual

1. Are you looking at the original version?

A reverse image search returns identical photos indexed online before the event in question took place.
A reverse image search returns similar results with some identical features, suggesting it might be a composite of two different images.
A date search on each social network reveals it to be the first of many versions shared online but we have not yet received confirmation from the uploader.
We are unable to find other versions online and basic shadow and reflection checks suggest that it has not been manipulated.

It was sent to us directly and we have spoken to the source.

2. Do you know who captured the photo?

It came in via an anonymous email or chat app number.
It was uploaded to a social network but the username does not appear elsewhere online. The uploader wants to remain anonymous.
By running full name searches, reverse searching the user’s profile photo, and/or researching the domain ownership of their blog or website, we were able to identify the uploader.

We questioned the source and their answers correlated with EXIF data, weather reports and their own online footprint.

3. Do you know where the photo was captured?

There was no location data available and it contains no visual clues to investigate.
We have cross-referenced with other photos coming from the scene but there is no satellite or street view imagery available to confirm the location.
We have used visual clues such as signage, architecture and clothing to establish a broad geographical region.

The source was able to confirm other landmarks in their field of vision, which matched those shown on online maps.

4. Do you know when the photo was captured?

There was no EXIF data available.

We confirmed that the weather conditions and any shadows visible in the photo correspond with the timestamp on the social network.

5. Do you know why the photo was captured?

We do not know who took the photo so we can’t ascertain what their motivations might have been.

Searches of the uploader’s social media activity leading up to the event confirm their reasons for capturing the photo, i.e. holidaymaker, journalist, works locally.

The photographer confirmed the circumstances surrounding the photo.

Key

Each step is presented in graded traffic light colours to acknowledge that it is rarely possible to be 100% confident in every aspect of an eyewitness photograph.

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

The photo was captured.

The uploader confirmed the time, date and location of the event and the visual evidence matches that given by the source.

The social media account was created very recently and/or social searches reveal the uploader rarely posts online but there is little evidence to confirm their movements or motivations.

The source was able to confirm other landmarks in their field of vision, which matched those shown on online maps.

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO