

21 August 2024

FOI Ref 17036

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many reports did your police force receive alleging the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'fake porn' or 'deepfake porn' (covered by the Online Safety Act 2023). Please include the number of alleged offences reported as well as the number of individuals i.e. if there were multiple reported offences against one individual.
2. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many times did your police force charge someone under the Online Safety Act with the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'deepfake porn' although that term is not in the legislation. Please include the number of charges as well as the number of individuals i.e. if one individual was charged with multiple offences.

REFINEMENT RECEIVED 16/07/2024:

Re. This FOI submitted last week. For clarity and to help you locate the information, I am asking for charges under the following law, Section 66B, sexual offences Act:

66B

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film

(1)

A person (A) commits an offence if—

- (a) A intentionally shares a photograph or film which shows, or appears to show, another person (B) in an intimate state,
- (b) B does not consent to the sharing of the photograph or film, and
- (c) A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Full legislation is here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/66B>

We received your request on 11/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- 1. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many reports did your police force receive alleging the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'fake porn' or 'deepfake porn' (covered by the Online Safety Act 2023). Please include the number of alleged



offences reported as well as the number of individuals i.e. if there were multiple reported offences against one individual. – **Information held.**

- 2. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many times did your police force charge someone under the Online Safety Act with the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'deepfake porn' although that term is not in the legislation. Please include the number of charges as well as the number of individuals i.e. if one individual was charged with multiple offences. – **Information held.**

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- 66B
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- Full legislation is here:
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Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- 1. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many reports did your police force receive alleging the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'fake porn' or 'deepfake porn' (covered by the Online Safety Act 2023). Please include the number of alleged offences reported as well as the number of individuals i.e. if there were multiple reported offences against one individual. – **Disclosed**
Number of alleged offences – 6
Number of alleged suspects – 7
- 2. Between 1st February 2024 and 30th June 2024, how many times did your police force charge someone under the Online Safety Act with the offence of sharing explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated to look like someone else without their consent, commonly known as 'deepfake porn' although that term is not in the legislation. Please include the number of charges as well as the number of individuals i.e. if one individual was charged with multiple offences. – **Disclosed**
Number of charges – 0

Data for this request has been extracted from our crime/occurrence recording database for all offences recorded under Section 66B of the sexual offences Act. All resulting logs have then been manually reviewed and data provided based upon a subjective view of each log as to whether any mention of image manipulation had been recorded.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit