

1 November 2024

FOI Ref 17345

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to inquire about data regarding reports of 'deepfake pornography'.

Can you please share with me data contained in reported incidents (eg in STORM's database) which contain the words 'deepfake' and 'porn'/ 'pornography' from 09/10/2022 to 09/10/2024. If unavailable, can you search the words 'intimate image abuse' or 'revenge porn'.

Please can you share with me how many reports of these words together were made. Can you break down these results as reports per month.

Please can you share information on the nature of each incident and the outcome (eg advice given or what charges were pressed).

Please can you also share the gender and the ages of those who reported and those convicted.

Please share your findings that are completed within the time and spending allocation given.

*By 'deepfake pornography' I refer to 'synthetic pornography that is created via altering already-existing photographs or video by applying deepfake technology to the images of the participants' often non-consensually, the products of which can sometimes be used as revenge porn.

We received your request on 09/10/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- 1. Can you please share with me data contained in reported incidents (eg in STORM's database) which contain the words 'deepfake' and 'porn'/ 'pornography' from 09/10/2022 to 09/10/2024. If unavailable, can you search the words 'intimate image abuse' or 'revenge porn'. – **Disclosed, 1.**
- 2. Please can you share with me how many reports of these words together were made. Can you break down these results as reports per month. - **Withheld.**
- 3. Please can you share information on the nature of each incident and the outcome (eg advice given or what charges were pressed). - **Withheld.**
- 4. Please can you also share the gender and the ages of those who reported and those convicted. - **Withheld.**

Please be advised the data has been extracted from our crime/occurrence recording database by carrying out a free text search for 'deepfake', 'porn' and 'pornography'. This has returned 1 offence. Due to the low number and in order to not identify any individuals, I am citing Section 40(2) Personal Information for question 2 onwards.

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

In regards to part 4 of your request. Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in the next instance, who may be able to assist.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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