

30 July 2026

FOI Ref 23188

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information concerning recorded crimes involving AI-generated or AI-manipulated sexual images of children.

Please search the free-text summary, modus operandi or occurrence-description fields of crimes recorded under offences concerning indecent or prohibited images of children for the following terms:

- “artificial intelligence”
- “AI-generated”
- “AI generated”
- “deepfake”
- “deep fake”
- “nudify”
- “nudified”
- “synthetic image”

For each of the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, and for the period 1 January to 27 July 2026, please provide:

1. The number of recorded crimes returned by this search. Please count any record containing more than one of the listed search terms only once.
2. For the ten most recently recorded cases returned by the search, please provide:
 - o The date the offence was recorded
 - o The recorded offence classification
 - o The investigation outcome
 - o The existing crime-summary, modus-operandi or occurrence-description text, with personal or identifying information redacted

I am not requesting copies or detailed descriptions of the images themselves, personal information, or anything capable of identifying a victim, suspect or other individual.

SP received your request on 28/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information concerning recorded crimes involving AI-generated or AI-manipulated sexual images of children.

Please search the free-text summary, modus operandi or occurrence-description fields of crimes recorded under offences concerning indecent or prohibited images of children for the following terms:

- “artificial intelligence”
- “AI-generated”
- “AI generated”
- “deepfake”
- “deep fake”
- “nudify”
- “nudified”
- “synthetic image”

For each of the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, and for the period 1 January to 27 July 2026, please provide:

1. The number of recorded crimes returned by this search. Please count any record containing more than one of the listed search terms only once. – **Disclosed please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 23188 AI Sexual Images Data’.**
2. For the ten most recently recorded cases returned by the search, please provide:
 - o The date the offence was recorded - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 23188 AI Sexual Images Data’.**
 - o The recorded offence classification - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file ‘FOI 23188 AI Sexual Images Data’.**
 - o The investigation outcome - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 23188 AI Sexual Images Data’.**

o The existing crime-summary, modus-operandi or occurrence-description text, with personal or identifying information redacted - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23188 AI Sexual Images Data'.**

I am not requesting copies or detailed descriptions of the images themselves, personal information, or anything capable of identifying a victim, suspect or other individual.

Please be advised this data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording system for “artificial intelligence”, “AI-generated”, “AI generated”, “deepfake”, “deep fake”, “nudify”, “nudified”, “synthetic image” and where the offence is recorded as the below:

- Take, permit to be taken, make, distribute or show indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of children.
- Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child.
- Possession of a prohibited image of a child.
- Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity for the purpose of producing an indecent image of a child.

Please note that there are 2 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has 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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional incidents/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 figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is 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.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from SP, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the SP response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty working days.

The independent supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the independent supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team