| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2532  Responded to: 01 November 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to inquire about data regarding reports of 'deepfake pornography'\* to Police Scotland.**

**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 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021.**

**Please can you share with me how many reports of these words together were made.**

**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.**

**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.**

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific words that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although the words appear in an incident report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect the prevalence of reports of deepfake pornography.

Notwithstanding, I can confirm there was 1 incident reported to Police Scotland which contained the words 'deepfake' and 'porn'/'pornography' from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021.

A female reported being aware of online content featuring her image which had been digitally altered - her age is not recorded, and section 17 of the Act therefore applies in respect of that.

No crime report was raised.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.