



Response Date:01/10/2024

2024/880 - Deepfake porn

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. For each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 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)?
2. Given there could be multiple reports about one individual, I am also asking the following question. For each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024, how many individuals did your police force receive allegations about relating to 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).
3. For each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024, how many people were charged 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 'fake porn' or 'deepfake porn'?
4. Given one individual could be charged with multiple offences, I am also asking the following question. For each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024, how many charges were made by your police force under the Online Safety Act of 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'?
5. Among the reports of victims of 'deepfake porn' for each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024, how many were under the age of 18?
6. Among the reports of victims of 'deepfake porn' for each of the months February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2024, how many were under the age of 10?

For clarity, for the questions above, I am asking for charges under the following law, Section 66B, Sexual Offences Act:

- (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>

7. For each of the months August, September, October, November and December 2023 and January and February 2024, how many reports did your police force

receive alleging the offence of deepfake sexual abuse under other legislation (before the Online Safety Act 2023 came into force) – e.g. communication offences or harassment legislation?

8. Given there could be multiple reports about one individual, I am also asking the following question. For each of the months August, September, October, November and December 2023 and January and February 2024, how many individuals did your police force receive allegations about relating to the offence of deepfake sexual abuse under other legislation (before the Online Safety Act 2023 came into force)?
9. For each of the months August, September, October, November and December 2023 and January and February 2024, how many people were charged with the offence of deepfake sexual abuse under other legislation (before the Online Safety Act 2023 came into force)?
10. Given one individual could be charged with multiple offences, I am also asking the following question. For each of the months August, September, October, November and December 2023 and January and February 2024, how many charges were made by your police force of the offence of deepfake sexual abuse under other legislation (before the Online Safety Act 2023 came into force)?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please prioritise questions in number order. Questions 1-6 should be prioritised over questions 7-10.

We have carried out a search for SOA Act S66B Offences March to August 2024 with keyword searches for 'Deepfake' or 'Fake Porn' in the Occ Summary and OEL – nil return.

We have also carried out a search of all notifiable offences August 2023 to January 2024 with keyword searches for 'Deepfake' or 'Fake Porn' - nil return

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. Beyond carrying out the searches (as described above) to obtain the information you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 26/09/2024