| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0545  Responded to: 16th March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Total number of crimes, broke down month-by-month, where the term ’deepfake porn’/’deepfake pornography’/’deepfake’ together with ‘porn’/’private’/’sexual’ appears as a keyword when searched, from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2023

In response to this question, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports on the basis of presence of specific words or phrases.

As such, the only way to establish whether any of the specified terms were mentioned within a crime report would be to carry out case by case assessment of all crime reports for the time period requested.

As illustrated by our [published crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve individually examining tens of thousands of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## Total number of incident reports, broke down month-by-month, where the term /’deepfake porn’/’deepfake pornography’/’deepfake’ together with ‘porn’/’private’/’sexual’ appears as a keyword when searched, from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2023

In researching this part of your request, a keyword search of the Police Scotland incident recording system, STORM, was carried out for ‘deepfake’. The results of this search can be found in the table below.

I must stress that Police Scotland does not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis. There may be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrases you have listed. Similarly, although the phrase may appear in an incident log, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter of your request.

The table below provides the number of recorded STORM incidents whereby the word ‘deepfake’ was present within, from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2022.

| **Month** | **Year** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January | 2021 | 1 |
| December | 2022 | 1 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 7th March 2023.

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.