| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1748Responded to: 18 August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the number of recorded crimes or incidents from 1 January 2024 to the present in which the following keywords appear in incident summaries, crime reports, or investigation notes:**

**“deepfake” OR “AI-generated” OR “synthetic media” OR “fake nude” OR “fake video”**

**Please provide:**

1. **The number of such incidents, broken down by month, where the suspect or perpetrator was under 18 at the time of the offence.**
2. **Where available, the associated offence type or classification, e.g. harassment, sexual offence, malicious communications, etc.**

In relation to *incident* data, STORM Unity used by Police Scotland for the management of police incidents and resources and it is primarily a command & control system. It has limited value as a statistical tool.

Keyword searching is not considered to be an accurate means by which statistical information can be gathered, as the nature of incident reporting is such that words and phrases can be used in a variety of different contexts.

There may have been incidents and crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific words/phrases 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 phrase appears 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.

As per your request, we have however conducted searches for the following:

%DEEPFAKE%'
'%DEEP FAKE%'
'%DEEP-FAKE%'
'%AI-GENERATED%'
'%AI GENERATED%'
'%SYNTHETIC MEDIA%'
'%FAKE NUDE%'
'%FAKE VIDEO%'

Those searches returned 105 incidents of potential relevance to your request.

At the stage of recording an incident, details regarding the suspect or perpetrator would not normally be captured and similarly, incidents are not recorded in terms of crime classifications.

We would have to review each incident, establish whether it went on to lead to the creation of a related crime report and, if so, extract and note the relevant details.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

In relation to *crime* data and a keyword search, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we have no means by which we can conduct a full keyword search of the body of a crime report. All potentially relevant crime reports would have to be individually reviewed for relevance – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost threshold set out in the Act.

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 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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email 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.