



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI\_24\_0268

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 27/03/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_0268**

On 29/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'm researching the prevalence of incidents and crimes linked to 'deep fake' imagery.

I'd be grateful if you could disclose the following, in an Excel spreadsheet where possible and broken down for each year between February 2019 and February 2024:

1. The number of incidents and crimes recorded by the force that had 'deepfake' or 'deep fake' mentioned in the notes (please do not combine the number of incidents and crimes).
2. The offence descriptions for each of those recorded incidents or crimes
3. The outcomes associated with each of the incidents or crimes disclosed
4. The associated notes for each of the crimes or incidents, if they can be disclosed within the cost and time limits (I understand there may be a need for the redaction of identifying details).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

When an Individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted of both the Incident Recording System and the Crime Recording System.

#### Incident Recording System –

A search has been conducted to identify all incidents recorded between 01/02/2019 - 31/01/2024 where the terms “deepfake” and/or “deep fake” are present within the free text sections of the incident log. This has returned 2 results.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regards to the disclosure of any further details of the records identified, the following exemption applies:

#### Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request

#### Crime Recording System –

A search of the Crime Recording System was conducted for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/02/2019 - 31/01/2024 where the terms “deepfake” and/or “deep fake” are present within the MO text. This has returned 0 results.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary