

Keeping People Safe



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2020-00055

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** Deepfakes

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

#### Request 1

Please tell me the number of records listed in your crime database that contain the word "deepfake"? Please identify these by conducting a free text search of your crime database, and provide the annual figure for each of the last five years (January 1 - December 31, for each of the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019).

#### Request 2

Please provide a breakdown of the kind of offences recorded that contain this keyword.?

#### Request 3

Please provide an anonymised copy of the crime report for each incident recorded. If this is too onerous, please focus on areas around possession of indecent images, the abuse of children and revenge pornography (disclosing a private photograph without consent).

#### Answers

The PSNI Record Owner has advised that a search of the free text 'full charge wording' field on the NICHE computer system of custody records and a further search of the free text 'summary' field on the occurrence records was made. The 'full charge wording' field details the specific offence and its context, and therefore can include any reference of the social media application involved in the offence. It should be noted a relevant keyword may appear in this field but have no relationship to any offence linked to the occurrence.

Both fields were searched for appearance of the word "deepfake" and these returned no records for the requested time period.

**Please note:** This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant to your request.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.