



Date: 14/12/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011667/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011667/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/11/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you tell me:

- 1. The number of dark web cases investigated by MMP year on year from 2015 to the present day*
- 2. The amount of these which were determined to be AI generated material (an average estimate is OK - or if this isn't possible - could someone in the correct team provide a percentage estimate of how much this has risen?)*
- 3. Does MMP consider AI generated CSAM as the biggest obstacle to overcome with investigations?*

Thank you - I didn't know if an FOI was the correct way forward so if it's appropriate and possible, I would love to be able to have a brief chat with someone working in this area to get some stats.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for opinions, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

As such, within the spirit of the Act, only questions 1 and 2 qualify as a request for information held and we are unable to provide an answer to question 3 under the Freedom of Information Act.

The data provided for this response is based on:

- All sexual offences recorded between 01/01/2015 and 31/10/2023 inclusive.
- Where the 'Cyber/Online?' flag was ticked as 'Yes' (meaning the offence happened online).
- Where victim was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.

A key word search was then conducted to determine whether any of these offences involved the Dark Web or AI, using the words: 'dark web', 'TOR', 'AI', 'artificial intelligence', 'deep fake' which returned 0 results. If you would like us to re-run this search with different keywords, please provide a list of keywords in a new request.

Reply

1. Based on the above criteria, 0 dark web cases were investigated.
2. As there were 0 dark web cases, there were also 0 AI generated cases based on the above criteria.