

Wednesday, 02 September 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017528/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017528/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please detail the number of reported crimes involving deepfakes, synthetic media and face swap each year for the past three years (from September to August), by searching a free-text keyword filter on the Modus Operandi text, crime summary fields or incident logs.

To keep under the statutory cost limit, please restrict this keyword search to offences recorded under Fraud, Blackmail, Sexual Offences (specifically intimate image abuse, if possible) and Harassment/Stalking.

Please search these words:

- "Deepfake"
- "Deep fake"
- "Synthetic media"

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Caveats

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/09/2023 and 26/08/2026, where the latest classification was offence 035/00 'blackmail', the crime tree level 2 was 'sexual offences', or the crime tree level 4 was 'stalking and harassment', where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'deepfake', 'deep fake', or

'synthetic media', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Data

Keywords	01/09/2023 - 31/08/2024	01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025	01/09/2025 - 26/08/2026
DEEPPFAKE	Less than 5	7	5
DEEP FAKE	Less than 5	8	11
SYNTHETIC MEDIA	0	0	0

The count less than 5 is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.