



FOI ref no: 14391

13 May 2022

**Freedom of Information request: reference 14391, first notified to us by email on 11 May 2022.**

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as detailed below:

1) *For the calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021, please tell me how many incidents of alleged blackmail you have recorded which made reference to one (or more) of the following online dating applications in the MO:*

- a) *Tinder*
- b) *Bumble*
- c) *Grindr*
- d) *Feeld*

2) *For the last ten such incidents recorded over the three-year period, please can you provide me with copies of the MOs?*

*Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for the names, ages, geography or any other detail to be redacted to allow for the disclosure of the incident and how it relates to one of the online dating applications mentioned above.*

**Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:**

**I can confirm Staffordshire Police does hold the requested information.**

1) *For the calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021, please tell me how many incidents of alleged blackmail you have recorded which made reference to one (or more) of the following online dating applications in the MO:*

- a) **Tinder - 13**
- b) **Bumble - Nil.**
- c) **Grindr - 7**
- d) **Feeld - Nil.**

2) *For the last ten such incidents recorded over the three-year period, please can you provide me with copies of the MOs?*

**Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet 'FOI 14391 Dating App Blackmail Data'.**

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitations of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information  
DCC Directorate – Information Governance and Assurance  
Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

Or Email: [foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit