

6 February 2025

FOI Ref 17768

Request - You asked us the following:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1. How many reports of offences linked to online dating apps where the victim is any other gender than female (e.g. male, non-binary or other) did you receive in the past four calendar years (1st January 2021 - when this request was processed) in your force's area. For this request, I define 'linked to online dating apps' as cases where the use of an online dating platform (e.g., Grindr, Hinge, Tinder, or Bumble) is mentioned in the report or flagged as relevant in the investigation.

1a. Please break down the data by year.

1b. Please break down the data by the following offence groups:

Sexual offences

Theft offences

Violence against the person

Robbery

1c. Please break down the data further down by the specific offence within each offence group

1d. Please also indicate what dating app was mentioned in the report, namely if it was the LGBTQ+ dating app "Grindr" or "Hinge", "Bumble" or "Tinder".

Please send me the data requested in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or as a csv file.

We received your request on 03/02/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- 1. How many reports of offences linked to online dating apps where the victim is any other gender than female (e.g. male, non-binary or other) did you receive in the past four calendar years (1st January 2021 - when this request was processed) in your force's area. For this request, I define 'linked to online dating apps' as cases where the use of an online dating platform (e.g., Grindr, Hinge, Tinder, or Bumble) is mentioned in the report or flagged as relevant in the investigation. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17768 Offences Linked to Online Dating Apps Data.CSV'.**
- 1a. Please break down the data by year. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17768 Offences Linked to Online Dating Apps Data.CSV'.**



- 1b. Please break down the data by the following offence groups:
Sexual offences
Theft offences
Violence against the person
Robbery – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17768 Offences Linked to Online Dating Apps Data.CSV'.**
- 1c. Please break down the data further down by the specific offence within each offence group – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17768 Offences Linked to Online Dating Apps Data.CSV'.**
- 1d. Please also indicate what dating app was mentioned in the report, namely if it was the LGBTQ+ dating app "Grindr" or "Hinge", "Bumble" or "Tinder". – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17768 Offences Linked to Online Dating Apps Data.CSV'.**

Please note that the data provided has been retrieved from a search of our crime/occurrence recording system for the key words 'Hinge', 'Bumble', 'Grindr' and 'Tinder' between 01/01/2021 and 03/02/2025. The data has then been manually reviewed to ensure it relates to online dating apps. The data has also been disaggregated in order to ensure individuals are not identifiable.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences/incidents may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been 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.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

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

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit