

16 October 2025

FOI Ref 21900

Request - You asked us the following:

For each of the 3 points listed below please provide breakdown by year –2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please treat each year as a calendar year from Jan-Dec. For 2025 please use Jan-September inclusive.

- 1) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Tinder” has been used? (ie where the term Tinder has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?
- 2) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Hinge” has been used? (ie where the term Hinge has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?
- 3) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Dating app” has been used? (ie where the term Dating app has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)?

When providing the data, please can you specify the nature of the crime (eg. sexual assault) and whether it resulted in a charge (y/n) and whether it resulted in a conviction (y/n).

If possible, please send the results in an excel format. Please format the table using columns for years, and rows for each question.

I am aware of the limitations on your time and resources that can be applied for each FOI request. If you are able to do so within those constraints, could you also supply for each offence:

- The sex of the alleged victim.
- The age of the alleged victim (This can be divided into age ranges if easier, but should include under 18's as a category).
- Whether or not the accused had a previous conviction.

We received your request on 30/09/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds some of the requested information.

- For each of the 3 points listed below please provide breakdown by year –2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please treat each year as a calendar year from Jan-Dec. For 2025 please use Jan-September inclusive.
- 1) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Tinder” has been used? (ie where the term Tinder has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.**



- 2) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Hinge” has been used? (ie where the term Hinge has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.**
- 3) How many offences has your force recorded where the key term “Dating app” has been used? (ie where the term Dating app has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.**
- When providing the data, please can you specify the nature of the crime (eg. sexual assault) and whether it resulted in a charge (y/n) and whether it resulted in a conviction (y/n). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.** We do not hold conviction data, please see the advice and assistance below.
- If possible, please send the results in an excel format. Please format the table using columns for years, and rows for each question.
- I am aware of the limitations on your time and resources that can be applied for each FOI request. If you are able to do so within those constraints, could you also supply for each offence:
The sex of the alleged victim. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.**
The age of the alleged victim (This can be divided into age ranges if easier, but should include under 18's as a category). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21900 Dating App Crimes Data’.**
- Whether or not the accused had a previous conviction. – **No information held, please see the advice and assistance below.**

Please be advised that the data is on separate tabs and has been provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification. There may be more or less victims per offence.

Please note: This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms “tinder”, “hinge” and “dating app”. The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

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 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.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

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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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Information Access Team
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 Information Access Team 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 a Supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team 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 Supervisor 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 Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant 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 link:
<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team