

26 January 2026

FOI Ref 22437

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

I'm writing to you in the hope you could help me acquire as much information as possible relating to crimes that have been linked to dating platforms since 2019.

Full disclosure of the data outlined below would be much appreciated, and as specified under the Freedom of Information Act I would be grateful for your advice and direction if you feel there's a way of better refining my request to allow you to retrieve the information I'm interested in.
Please do feel free to contact me to clarify the below request if necessary.

If possible, if you could disclose your response in an Excel spreadsheet that would be really helpful.

For question one, please structure the worksheet with column headings as follows:

Dating platform, No of offences 2019, No of offences 2020, No of offences 2021, No of offences 2022, No of offences 2023, No of offences 2024, No of offences 2025.

For question two, please structure the worksheet with the following column headings:

Date, dating platform, offence description, outcome, victim age, victim gender, suspect age, suspect gender

1.) Between January 1 2019 and December 31 2025 inclusive, what was the total number of offences recorded involving the terms Grindr, Tinder, Hinge, Bumble?

Please provide a breakdown of the total number of offences for each keyword, anonymised as necessary to protect the identity of individuals. (Note: I am aware that Grindr and Tinder are often misspelled so I have provided a list of typos below to include in your search for those platforms)

2.) For each recorded incident, please provide the following details: date of offence, dating platform/keyword linked to crime, offence description, victim age, victim gender, suspect age, suspect gender and crime outcome where possible, anonymised as necessary to protect the identity of individuals.

According to Google search data these are common typos often used by users searching for these apps, so please include these typos in your searches for these apps to capture common misspellings.

Grindr: Grinder, Grindrr

Tinder: Tindr

Hinge: Hing

Bumble: Bumbl

SP received your request on 23/01/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

- 1.) Between January 1 2019 and December 31 2025 inclusive, what was the total number of offences recorded involving the terms Grindr, Tinder, Hinge, Bumble?
Please provide a breakdown of the total number of offences for each keyword, anonymised as necessary to protect the identity of individuals. (Note: I am aware that Grindr and Tinder are often misspelled so I have provided a list of typos below to include in your search for those platforms) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22437 Dating App Crimes Data.xlsx'.**
- 2.) For each recorded incident, please provide the following details: date of offence, dating platform/keyword linked to crime, offence description, victim age, victim gender, suspect age, suspect gender and crime outcome where possible, anonymised as necessary to protect the identity of individuals. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22437 Dating App Crimes Data.xlsx'. Please note that we have provided this data in disaggregated tables in order to avoid the disclosure of personal or identifiable information.**

Please note that there are numerous offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations
Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.



Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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 SP, 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:

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.



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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