



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

22 May 2026

FOI Ref 22903

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

Please provide data for the period beginning 1 January 2019 up to 20 May 2026.

I am requesting:

The total number of recorded rape allegations/offences in which any of the following dating applications were referenced within the method of attack, occurrence log, crime report, investigation notes or any searchable field:

Tinder
Hinge
Bumble
Grindr
Feeld
Plenty of Fish / POF
Match.com
Happn
Badoo
eHarmony

Where possible, please provide a yearly breakdown for:

2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026 (as of 20 May)

Please also provide, where available:

The age of the victim (or age bracket if exact age cannot be disclosed)

The age of the suspect

Whether the suspect and complainant were previously unknown to one another

The specific dating application referenced

For clarity, I am referring to rape offences recorded as:

rape of a female aged 16 or over

rape of a male aged 16 or over

Any equivalent rape offence classifications involving victims under 16 where the dating app was referenced

If your systems cannot conduct searches across all requested applications, please conduct keyword searches for the individual app names listed above.



SP received your request on 20/05/2026 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.

- Please provide data for the period beginning 1 January 2019 up to 20 May 2026.
- I am requesting:
The total number of recorded rape allegations/offences in which any of the following dating applications were referenced within the method of attack, occurrence log, crime report, investigation notes or any searchable field:
Tinder
Hinge
Bumble
Grindr
Feeld
Plenty of Fish / POF
Match.com
Happn
Badoo
eHarmony
- Where possible, please provide a yearly breakdown for:
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026 (as of 20 May)
- Please also provide, where available:
The age of the victim (or age bracket if exact age cannot be disclosed)
The age of the suspect
Whether the suspect and complainant were previously unknown to one another
The specific dating application referenced
- For clarity, I am referring to rape offences recorded as:
rape of a female aged 16 or over
rape of a male aged 16 or over
Any equivalent rape offence classifications involving victims under 16 where the dating app was referenced



- If your systems cannot conduct searches across all requested applications, please conduct keyword searches for the individual app names listed above.
- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22903 Dating App Rape Offences Data'. Please see the below exemption.**

Please note that there are a number of offences that are still being investigated therefore Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities, has been applied. These incidents have been removed from the data provided.

Please be advised that the data has been provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification. Where the suspect was unknown to the victim is whereby the individuals had met for the first time via the dating app and then the offence occurred. Please also note that there are less suspects/offenders per crime as not every offence may have a suspect/offender identified.

Please note: This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "tinder", "hinge", "bumble", "grindr", "feeld", "plenty of fish", "poF", "match.com", "happn", "badoo" and "eharmony". 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 the ability of SP, 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.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, 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 SP website although personal details are not included.

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 part of 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 SP serves. 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 SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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 SP response to the original FOI request.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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, considering 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