

15 June 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180909

REQUEST

Could you please disclose how many incidents have been reported to your force involving the words 'Tinder' and/or 'Grindr' and, separated, "Facebook" in the last three full calendar year?

Please disclose:

- 1) The nature and details of the incident
- 2) The location
- 3) If it was classed as a crime
- 4) What the outcome was (NFA, Out of court disposal, charged etc)

RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

I approached the administrator for South Yorkshire Police's Incident Management System for assistance with your request. This system records the majority of matters requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties.

As there is no generic incident title that meets the criteria of your request, our administrator firstly searched for incidents that mentioned the keyword 'facebook' within the incident log, for the time period specified.

I am advised that that the above search for facebook in the last three calendar years returned 33,000 incidents for the mention of this word alone. An incident log read like a diary/running commentary of events and can run to several pages in length. In order to extract the information you are requesting, by manually reviewing each incident, it would far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied information relating to your request as a gesture of goodwill. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future.

Information relating to **crimes** and some of the dating apps you have mentioned have previously been published on our Disclosure Log. Access to this data is available using the following link:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/sexual-assaults-linked-to-dating-app-ref-20180046/>