

24 May 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20191019

REQUEST

For each of the last three full calendar years (2016, 2017, 2018), the number of offences which features one of the below listed apps or sites within the classification method field:

- i) Facebook OR Facebook Messenger
- ii) Twitter
- iii) Tinder
- iv) Grindr
- v) Yubo OR Yellow
- vi) Hinge
- vii) Whatsapp
- viii) Instagram
- ix) Tumblr
- x) Snapchat
- xi) YouTube
- xii) Reddit
- xiii) Kik

Further broken down by:

Sheet 1: MAJOR / MINOR OFFENCE – The offence section and group

Sheet 2: GENDER OF SUSPECT – the gender of the suspect, usually Female, Male or Unknown/unrecorded

Sheet 3: GENDER OF VICTIM – as above

Sheet 4: AGE GROUP – the age or age group of the suspect and victim: 0-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+, Unknown

Sheet 5: OUTCOME - the expanded outcomes list introduced by the Home Office to most forces in April 2014 (e.g. number of charges or conviction)

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Officer for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheets in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

CMS(ii) Data –

I have included a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register recorded between 01-Jan-2016 and 04-Dec-2017 where the specified Social Media sites were mentioned within the circumstances of offence text. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the victim's gender and age at the time of the offence, the offender's gender and age at the time of offence and the offender's outcome (if recorded with a named offender).

CONNECT Data –

I have included a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2018 where the specified Social Media sites were mentioned within the Initial MO free text. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the victim's gender and age at the time of the offence and a breakdown of the offence outcome.

I have not been able to provide data regarding offenders in CONNECT due to the ongoing issues. As previously stated, PMU has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues and because the query would be based on the offender's outcome, I cannot currently fulfil this request for CONNECT.

The requestor should be made aware of the following regarding this data set –

- Some offences may mention more than one of the specified social media apps.
- There is no generic marker within CMS(ii) or CONNECT for 'SOCIAL MEDIA', therefore I have searched for the specified social media apps using a keyword search within the CMS(ii) Circumstances of offence free text and the INITIAL MO free text within CONNECT. However, this may not accurately identify what is potentially recorded on the crime systems due to spelling variations\errors.
- Some offences can be recorded with more than one victim and some may be recorded with more than one offender and some offences maybe currently recorded without an offender, therefore we do not expect count of offences to reflect a count of victims or offenders.
- The outcomes CHARGED, SUMMONS and CAUTIONS changed in 2017 and we now specifically record for what offence, the offender was charged i.e. CHARGED is now recorded as either CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED Or CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE, therefore the outcomes are applicable depending on the year recorded the offence was recorded.
- We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.