

25th February 2020

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20200404**

**REQUEST**

The number of recorded offences where the below\* dating websites/ apps were mentioned in a police report.

Please provide the figures per year for the following years: 2019, 2018 and 2017

- For example in 2019, the force recorded 7 crimes where Tinder was mentioned in the report

- The type of recorded offences where the below\* online dating website or app was mentioned in a police report. Please provide the figures per year for the following years: 2019, 2018 and 2017

-For example, in 2019 the force recorded 7 crimes where Tinder was mentioned in the report.

All 7 crimes related to sexual assault / rape \*I understand that due to the way that information is stored in your system, you might need a specific list of the dating apps and websites. With that in mind, the above request relates to the following apps/ websites: Tinder, Grindr, Bumble, Hinge, Match.com, OkCupid, eHarmony, Happn, Plenty of Fish, EliteSingles, Lumen, mysinglefriend.com

**CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/social-media-app-offences-ref-20191019/>

**FROM THE REQUESTER**

*Would it be possible to search for recorded offences where the following dating apps were mentioned within the police report -----*

*Tinder, Grindr, Bumble, Hinge, Match.com, OkCupid, eHarmony, Happn, Plenty of Fish, EliteSingles, Lumen.*

*Please provide the figures per year for the following years: 2019, 2018 and 2017*

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator 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)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

*CMS(ii) Data –*

*I have included a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register recorded between 01-Jan-2017 and 04-Dec-2017 where the specified 'Dating Apps' were mentioned within the circumstances of offence text.*

*No data was returned for the following -*

*OkCupid  
Eharmony  
Happn  
EliteSingles  
Lumen*

*CONNECT Data –*

*I have included a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2018 where the specified 'Dating Apps' were mentioned within the Initial MO free text.*

*No data was returned for the following -*

*Match.com  
OkCupid  
Eharmony  
Happn  
Lumen*

*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 Dating apps.*
- I have searched for the specified Dating 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.*
- 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.*