

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000620-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 13 February 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Please provide the following information for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.*

*How many reported offences were recorded which were linked to the use of dating 'apps' or websites (for example, Tinder, Grindr, Happn, Match.com, Bumble etc).*

*Please break down by offence type and provide details of which named 'app' or website was involved in each offence.”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 28 February 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded during the 2013 – 2017 calendar years that contain the words 'Tinder', 'Grindr', 'Happn', 'Match', 'Bumble' or 'Plenty of Fish' within the freetext of the offence.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences located where one of the above was recorded within the MO of the crime, including offence and year.

Please note that the information provided does not necessarily relate to offences committed on, or in relation to, dating apps.

Dating App / Offence	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Grindr</b>					
Assault on a male by penetration (Indictable)					1
Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is 18 or over and victim is under 16)				1	1
<b>Match.com</b>					
Section 2 harassment - non crime		1			
Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter		1			
<b>Plenty of Fish</b>					
Attempted - Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child					1
Blackmail				1	
Breach of a restraining order				1	



Harassment	3		1		
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)				1	
Malicious Communications			1		
Message letter e-mail etc indecent/threat/false		2	1		
Putting people in fear of violence	1				
Rape - Female over 16 yrs	1				
Rape of a female (16 or over)				1	
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)					
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988				3	1
Sexual Assault On A Female	1			1	
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress				1	
Take or to make indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children			1		
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children					2
Theft if not classified elsewhere				1	
Unmapped			1		
<b>Tinder</b>					
Blackmail (Indictable)					1
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988					
Sexual activity with a male child under 16 by Penetration - Offender 18 or over				1	
Unmapped			1		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>

***Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.***

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;  
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the  
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker  
Information Management Department  
Suffolk Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
Martlesham Heath  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP5 3QS  
OR  
Email: [information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 700