

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000201-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 14 January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“How many reports of the following alleged incidents of sexual allegations where dating apps (such as Tinder, Grindr, Bumble, Hinge) have been referenced in the crime report?”*

*Please can you break it down by:*

1. *Sexual assault*
2. *Male rape where victim is 16 and under and is raped by a man*
3. *Male rape where victim is 16 and under and is raped by a woman*
4. *Female rape where victim is 16 and under and is raped by a man*
5. *Female rape where victim is 16 and under and is raped by a woman*
6. *Blackmail*
7. *Harassment*
8. *Attempted murder*
9. *Theft/burglary/robbery*
10. *violence/battery/assault/GBH*

*Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the alleged incidents and the gender and either specific or approximate age of the alleged perpetrator and victim. (eg, aged in her 20s).*

*I would like this information broken down ANNUALLY for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 29 January 2019

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

A freetext search has been undertaken of all requested offence categories recorded that contain the words ‘Tinder’, ‘Grindr’, ‘Bumble’ or ‘Hinge’ within the crime text. Freetext searches are, by their very nature, unreliable and consequently, there may well be additional offences not located due to the spelling of the dating apps not being precisely as searched or not being referenced within the text itself.

The data provided on the attached spreadsheet confirms all offences recorded with the above keywords within the crime freetext. The data has been presented in two tables owing to a change in crime recording system during October 2015.

There were no offences located with the words Bumble or Hinge.

The data provided below has not been case read and consequently, we cannot confirm the association between the dating apps with the crime. The information does not include non-crimes.

The age and gender fields are not always completed and therefore not always available for the purpose of FOI responses. We have supplied the information where it is recorded within the tables below.

Dating App	Offence Class Description	2014	2015
<b>TINDER &amp; GRINDR</b>	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm		1
	Attempted Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over	1	
	Common assault & battery		1
	Domestic incident - non crime		1
	Harassment	1	3
	NON COUNTING FRAUD INVESTIGATION		3
	Other Criminal Damage	1	
	Other Criminal Damage To A Vehicle		1
	Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over		3
	Section 2 harassment - non crime		4
	Take or to make indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children	1	
	Unmapped		1
<b>GRINDR</b>	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1	
	Burglary dwelling		2
	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	1	
	Harassment	1	
	Having possession of Class B Cannabis		1
	Putting people in fear of violence		1
	Rape Of Male Aged 16 Or Over	1	
	Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm		1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>



Dating App	Offence Description	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Grindr</b>	Assault on a male by penetration (Indictable)			1	
	Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery		1	1	1
	Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is 18 or over and victim is under 16)		1	2	
	Blackmail (Indictable)			1	
	Breach SHPO / interim SHPO / SOPO / interim SOPO / Foreign travel order or fail to comply with a requirement under Sec 103D (4)			1	
	Causing or inciting a male child under 16 to engage in sexual activity No Penetration - Offender 18 or over				1
	DWELLING BURGLARY		1		
	Engage in sexual communication with a child			1	
	Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)		1	1	1
	Rape of a male (16 or over) (Indictable)				2
	Rape of a male (under 16) (Indictable)				1
	Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988				1
	Sexual activity with a male child under 16 by Penetration - Offender 18 or over (Indictable)		2		1
	Sexual assault on a female		1		
	Sexual assault on a male		1		
	Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children		1		3
<b>Tinder</b>	Affray		1		
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)		1	2	1
	Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery		1	3	2
	Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is 18 or over and victim is under 16)			1	
	Blackmail (Indictable)			1	1
	Breach of a restraining order		1		
	Burglary - Business And Community			1	
	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling				1
	Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity: Female child no penetration			1	
	Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity: Female child - penetration (Indictable)			1	



Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity No Penetration - Offender 18 or over				1
Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress		1		
Domestic Abuse Investigation	1		2	5
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship.		1		
Engage in sexual communication with a child			1	
Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking			1	1
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)	1		1	3
Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)				1
Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)		1	1	2
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child	1	2	2	
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)	1	3	4	7
Rape of a male (16 or over) (Indictable)				1
Rape of a male (under 16) (Indictable)			1	
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988			2	1
Sexual activity with a child under 13 by an offender under 18 years of age: Male child no penetration		1		
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 by Penetration - Offender 18 or over (Indictable)		1		
Sexual activity with a male child under 16 No penetration - Offender 18 or over		1		1
Sexual assault on a female		1	1	2
Sexual assault on a male child under 13		1		
Stalking involving fear of violence			1	
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress				1
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children		3		1
Theft if not classified elsewhere			1	
Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter				2
Threats to kill				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>

The gender of the suspects and victims, are as follows, noting that on a large proportion the information is not recorded in the corresponding search field that will allow for the information to be easily extracted.



Dating App	Suspect Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Both</b>	Not Recorded	4	18			
<b>Grindr</b>	Male			4	6	4
	Not Recorded	4	5	5	2	7
<b>Tinder</b>	Male					5
	Not Recorded	3	11	17	18	3
	Female	1	9	11	12	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>

Dating App	Victim Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Both</b>	Female	3	13			
	Male		3			
	Not Recorded	1	2			
<b>Grindr</b>	Female			2		
	Male			3	3	8
	Not Recorded	4	5	4	5	3
<b>Tinder</b>	Female	1	9	18	19	1
	Male		2	3	4	
	Not Recorded	3	9	7	12	3
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>

The age of the suspects and victims, are as follows, noting that on a large proportion the information is not recorded in the corresponding search field that will allow for the information to be easily extracted.

Dating App	Suspect Age	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Both</b>	Not Recorded	2	11			
	20-29	1	2			
	19 and under		1			
	30-39		1			
	40-49	1	2			
	50-59		1			
<b>Grindr</b>	Not Recorded	4	5	5	2	7
	19 and under				2	1



	20-29					2
	30-39			2	1	1
	40-49			2		
	50-59				2	
	60-69				1	
<b>Tinder</b>	Not Recorded		1	8	11	12
	19 and under			3	2	2
	20-29		1	5	6	9
	30-39		2	3	6	4
	40-49				2	6
	50-59			1	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>

Dating App	Victim Age	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Both</b>	Not Recorded	1	2			
	19 and under	2	4			
	20-29	1	5			
	30-39		2			
	40-49		3			
	50-59		2			
<b>Grindr</b>	Not Recorded	4	5	4	5	3
	19 and under			4	1	2
	20-29				1	4
	30-39					2
	40-49				1	
	50-59			1		
<b>Tinder</b>	Not Recorded					
	19 and under			8	8	3
	20-29		1	3	7	9
	30-39				4	5
	40-49				1	4
	50-59			1	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</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.***

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

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 40 working 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