

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000621-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 12 February 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Can you do a keyword search in your system to tell me how many stalking, sexual offences, rapes, instances of coercive and controlling behaviour or assaults have been reported in total since 01/01/2015 linked to the following dating apps: Tinder, Happn, Bumble, Plenty of Fish, Match, Inner Circle, Grindr, OkCupid and Zoosk. A keyword search for each named app and the phrases "stalking", "sexual offence", "rape", "coercive and controlling behaviour", and "assault" would be fine but please advise if another method would be more effective at finding the information I'm after.*
2. *Please can you provide a total of reports found by type of crime and per dating app.*
3. *Please can you indicate in the same period how many charges have been brought in total for all stalking, sexual offences, rape, instances of coercive and controlling behaviour or assaults where reference to one of the above named dating apps is mentioned since 01/01/2015."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 27 February 2019

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 reported as per the request, where reference to one of the above named dating apps appear within the crime freetext.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded by dating app and offence title. Please note that these offences have not been reviewed to establish the relevancy of the dating app to the offence.

Dating APP / Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bumble	1	3	7	4	
Aggravated vehicle taking				1	
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	1				
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)			1	1	
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of			2		



control in a public place injuring any person					
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)				1	
Sexual assault on a female		2			
Stalking involving fear of violence			4		
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress				1	
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children		1			
Grindr	3	5	7	8	
Assault on a male by penetration (Indictable)			1		
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery		1	2	1	
Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc			2		
Causing or inciting a male child to engage in sexual activity No Penetration				1	
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child		1			
Rape of a male (16 or over) (Indictable)		1		2	
Rape of a male (under 16) (Indictable)			1	1	
Rape Of Male Aged 16 Or Over	1				
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988			1		
Sexual activity with a male child by Penetration				1	
Sexual Assault On A Male	1	1			
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children		1		2	
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1				
OkCupid			1		
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)			1		
Plenty of Fish	22	41	40	42	2
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	2				
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)		2	1	4	
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery		1	2	5	
Attempted - Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity: Female child no penetration			1		
Attempted rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)				1	
Attempted Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over	1				
Breach of a restraining order		3	1		
Breach of conditions of injunction against harassment				1	
Causing A Male Person To Engage In Sexual Activity Without Consent	1				
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship.		1	1		



Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988		5	1		
GBH serious wound without intent - Sec 20	1				
Harassment	3				
Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking		2	1	2	
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)	1	11	6	8	1
Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc			2		
Minor wound without intent - Sec 20	1				
Minor wound without intent (s20)			1		
Possession of an indecent or pseudo photograph of a child	2				
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	2				
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)	1	9	8	10	1
Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over	4				
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988			10	6	
Sexual activity with a female child (no penetration)	1				
Sexual Activity With A Female Child	1				
Sexual activity with a male child No penetration				1	
Sexual assault on a female		3	1	2	
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress		2	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	3	1	
Threats to destroy or damage property				1	
Plenty of Fish/Zoosk	1				
Harassment	1				
Tinder	12	17	29	27	6
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1				
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)		1	2	1	2
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery		1	3	3	2
Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc			1		
Breach of a restraining order		1			
Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity: Female child no penetration			2		
Causing or inciting a female child to engage in sexual activity No Penetration				1	
Common assault & battery	1				
Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause		1	1		



distress					
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship.		1	1		
Engage in sexual communication with a child			1		
Harassment	3				
Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking			2	2	
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)	1		1	3	1
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child	1	2	2		
Rape of a female (16 or over) (Indictable)	1	4	7	7	1
Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over	3				
Rape of a male (16 or over) (Indictable)		1		1	
Rape of a male (under 16) (Indictable)			1		
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988			3	3	
Sexual activity with a female child by Penetration		1			
Sexual activity with a male child No penetration		1		1	
Sexual assault on a female			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 indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children	1				
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children		2		1	
Threats to kill				1	
Zoosk	1		1	2	
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)				1	
Rape Of A Female Aged 16 Or Over	1				
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988			1	1	
Grand Total	40	66	85	83	8

The total number of persons charged with the above offences is provided in the table below. Please note that some of these offences will remain under investigation. Additionally, Victims are the priority in any investigation and we will always work to gather and secure evidence in order to gain a successful conviction.

Many factors have an effect on the number of people charged with offences, including the strength of the evidence presented and in some cases, the willingness of the victim to proceed.

When dealing with sexual offences, prosecutions are not always the desired outcome for victims and for many reasons they may not be able to support police investigations.

These crimes can often be complex and may have taken place within a family setting, meaning victims can be unwilling to take matters to court.

Dating APP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bumble				3	
Grindr	3		3	2	
Plenty of Fish	19	10	5	16	2
Plenty of Fish/Zoosk	1				
Tinder	9	6	9	13	5
Zoosk	1				
Grand Total	33	16	17	34	7

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*

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 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