| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1290  Responded to: 18th July 2025 |
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Please, first of all, accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many reports of sexual assaults linked to Tinder were made in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023? For example, in STORMs database, how many reports from each year contain both the terms 'sexual assault' and 'Tinder'?

## How many reports of rape linked to Tinder were made in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023? For example, in STORMs database, how many reports from each year contain both the terms 'rape' and 'Tinder'?

## In response to your request, I must advise you that it is not possible to conduct searches of our systems based on what a caller may have mentioned in their account, however we can base searches on the presence of a particular word(s)/ phrases in the notes taken by the call handler and input on to our incident recording system, STORM.

As such, I have progressed your request on that basis, searching for the words included in your request.

I must stress however that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been incidents and crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific words that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although the phrase appears in an incident report/ the MO of a crime report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect the prevalence of sexual assaults linked to Tinder, nor Rapes linked to Tinder.

In researching your request, a keyword search was carried out on Police Scotland’s incident recording system, STORM, for all incidents which included both ‘Rape’ and ‘Tinder’ within the incident description and comment field from the 1st January 2015 to 31st May 2025.

Please note that the roll out of STORM was fully complete across all Policing Divisions in February 2018. As such, data from prior to 2018 does not cover the full Force area.

On that basis, the results of the above search is set out below. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 18th June 2025.

| **Year** | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | 1 |
| 2016 | 2 |
| 2017 | 4 |
| 2018 | 3 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 8 |
| 2021 | 8 |
| 2022 | 5 |
| 2023 | 4 |
| 2024 | 5 |
| 2025 | 3 |

A further keyword search was carried out of Storm for incidents where the initial incident classification was recorded as ‘Sexual offence’ and ‘Tinder’ was included within the incident description and comment field, from the 1st January 2015 to 31st May 2025.

The results of this search are set out in the below table. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 18th June 2025.

| **Year** | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | 7 |
| 2016 | 7 |
| 2017 | 24 |
| 2018 | 32 |
| 2019 | 38 |
| 2020 | 53 |
| 2021 | 54 |
| 2022 | 40 |
| 2023 | 36 |
| 2024 | 33 |
| 2025 | 6 |

We carried out a further search of Recorded Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, where ‘Tinder’ appears in the MO text field, from the 1st January 2015 to 31st May 2025. The results of this search are set out in the below table.

| **Crime** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Causing to view sexual activity or images | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Communicating Indecently | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Group 2 Crime | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Rape | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Threatening or Disclosure of Intimate Image | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **2** | **1** | **0** | **2** | **0** | **4** | **3** | **1** | **10** | **2** | **0** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 18/06/2025.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.