

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2382
Date: 29th November 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

I would like to request that a free text search (or equivalent) of your crime database is carried out. To help improve accuracy, I would be grateful if such a search could be narrowed to reports of the following offences:

- (i) Rape (contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- (ii) Sexual Assault (contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- (iii) Assault by penetration (contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- (iv) Causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent (contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- (v) Administering a substance with intent (contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003)**
- (vi) Harassment (contrary to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997)**
- (vii) Stalking (contrary to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997)**

For the above specified offences, I would like to request the following free text searches (or equivalent) is carried out of your crime database for the following terms:

- (i) "Tinder"**
- (ii) "Bumble"**
- (iii) "Hinge"**
- (iv) "Grindr"**
- (v) "Dating app"**

Following a search in the parameters specified, please (i) identify the number of offence records containing the above phrases between January 1 2017 and November 1 2022 (ii) provide a breakdown of the different offences recorded that included the above search terms, (iii) provide a breakdown of the different offences recorded that included the above search terms by calendar year, (iv) provide an outcome for each investigation, broken down by offence and year.

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

OFFICIAL

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility available to carry out a force wide MO search of all crime reports, nor is it possible to carry out a free text search for specific terms or keywords on our systems.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine all sexual, stalking etc. offences for the time period requested to establish whether they mention any of the dating apps you refer to.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](#), this would involve case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.