| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1238  Responded to: 06 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding two questions:

## The number of reported incidents of:

## a)Rape or attempted rape (Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act)

## b) Sexual assault by penetration (Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act)

## c) Sexual assault (Section 3 of the Sexual Offences Act)

## d) Stalking (Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act)

## e) Harassment (Section 2a of the Protection from Harassment Act)

## where the free text associated with the incident report contains any of the following the words: 'online dating', 'internet dating’, 'tinder', 'bumble', 'feeld', '[match.com](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmatch.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7Cfd21236e54fc45fc5c9308dd7b90f555%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638802584721940870%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7p8OLc718hLcgQfHQFjy8G79YHl6EXULLAc99S4UNu4%3D&reserved=0)', ‘hinge’, 'eharmony’, ‘dating app’ or 'plenty of fish’

## We would like this information for 1 Jan 2024 to 31 December 2024 (1 year), or the most recent 12 month period available.

## 2. Of all the reported incidents of sexual assault, rape, and stalking (etc) made to your constabulary in the most recent 12-month period, what proportion involved cases where the victim first met or connected with the perpetrator through a dating app?

None of the legislation referred to in your request extends to Scotland.

Home Office Crime Classifications and codes do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications, however there is no Scottish crime classification relevant to your request. Crime data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

To be of assistance, I can clarify that it would not be possible, within the excess cost provisions, to conduct keyword searches of crime reports based on Scottish crime classifications, as there is no facility whereby such a process can be automated.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.