

Sexual Assaults Linked to Dating Apps

2 February 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 2018046

REQUEST

Under the Freedom Of Information Act, I would like to see statistics for rape/sexual assault accusations where the alleged victim says they met the alleged culprit through Tinder or other dating apps.

I'd like to see the statistics for the past three years, if possible.

Also, is it possible to see these statistics as a percentage of overall rape/sexual assault accusations, and to give a year-by-year breakdown of those percentage figures to see whether the problem is getting worse.

Would it also be possible to see how many convictions are made in these cases and the percentage rate of convictions in these cases

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION:

Can you advise which specific sites/apps would you like us to use as a key word search. As alluded to in the previous responses, our Crime Management System (CMS) does not have a field which would easily identify such crimes (those involving dating apps etc). In previous searches, we have relied on being given the name of a site for us to search for e.g. "TINDER"

Any results obviously come with a caveat that a) the word has been used in the 'circumstances of the offence' field and b)spelt correctly

CLARIFICATION:

Sites which it would be good to get data for would be Tinder, Grindr, Plenty Of Fish, OK Cupid and Match.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Systems Analyst for assistance with your request. She conducted a search of our two crime management systems: CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from this date onwards. Due to difficulties with the way in which the data is extracted, data from our new CONNECT system is currently presented separately.

Each of these systems record complaints or allegations of those matters which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes' and using the criteria above our Crime Analyst has provided the enclosed data and the following explanation:

CMS

I have included a count of the specified offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-jan-2014 and 04-Dec-2017, which mention the following within the circumstances of offence free text field –

Tinder

Grindr

Plenty of Fish

OK Cupid – nil result

Match (I have searched MATCH.COM as searching the word MATCH alone would return many results) – nil result

CONNECT data

I have searched the INITIAL MO field within the CONNECT system, this has returned 0 results for each of the above for dates 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Dec-2017. I have been advised that this is currently the only searchable free text field within CONNECT.

Please note that whilst the circumstances of offence mention these search terms, the full circumstances of the offence would need to be interrogated to establish in what context each of these terms are used.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

COUNT OF THE SPECIFIED OFFENCES THAT MENTION EITHER TINDER, GRINDR & PLENTY OF FISH

WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED ON THE CMS(II) CRIME REGISTER BETWEEN 01-JAN-2014 AND 04-DEC-2017

TINDER

YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	2014	2015	2016	2017
RAPE OF A FEMALE AGED 16 AND OVER	0	3	2	1
SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A FEMALE AGED 13 OR OVER	0	2	1	1

GRINDR

YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	2014	2015	2016	2017
RAPE OF A FEMALE AGED 16 AND OVER	0	0	0	1
SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A MALE AGED 13 AND OVER	0	1	0	0

PLENTY OF FISH

YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	2014	2015	2016	2017
RAPE OF A FEMALE AGED 16 AND OVER	5	1	2	4