

30 April 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180583

REQUEST

FOI 1 –

I am writing to request the following –

1. How many crime reports over the last five years mention "online dating"? Please break this information down by calendar years (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), provide a brief description of the crime, the gender of the victim and whether the perpetrator was charged or not. I do not require any other information.

2. How many times were any of the following websites or apps mentioned:

**Plenty of Fish
Grindr
Tinder
Badoo
Tagged
OK Cupid
Zoosk
Match.com
Other**

Please can you break this down by year (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)?

FOI 2 –

I am writing to request the following –

3 .How many crime reports in the last three years (2015,2016, 2017) mention synthetic cannabinoids, spice or black mamba? Please can you break this down by year and month, and also detail be given on the nature of the crime report (eg there was a disturbance or robbery in which the drug was mentioned)

I request the below information in calendar years!

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(ii) data -

Q1 - I have included a count of the specified offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017, which ONLINE DATING the following within the circumstances of offence free text field, broken down by the victim's gender and the year the offence was recorded. I have also included the offence outcome.

Q2 - 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 –

Plenty of Fish – 68 offences
Grindr – 20 offences
Tinder – 11 offences
Badoo – nil return
OK Cupid – 2 offences
Zoosk – nil return
Match.com – 6 offences

Tagged – I cannot accurately search for this words as the results would be too vast i.e Tagged incidents and other such circumstances which would mention the word 'TAGGED'

Other – I can only search for keywords within a free text search, the requester would need to advise all other apps which are of interest.

I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2015 and 04-Dec-2017 where the circumstances of offence text mentions 'SPICE and where the offence has been recorded under either the PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 2016 OR THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT. I cannot search for the word ' SPICE' alone as this would return vast results i.e. Premise types etc. No results were returned when searching for the keywords '**black mamba** or '**synthetic cannabinoids**'

CONNECT data

Regarding Q1 & Q2 - 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.

Q3 – I have searched the INITIAL MO field within the CONNECT system 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Dec-2017 where the INITIAL MO mentions 'SPICE' and where the offence has been recorded under either the PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 2016 OR THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT.

Please note – the circumstances of offence mention these search terms but each offence would have to be reviewed to establish if the full circumstances are relevant to the request.

We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii).

SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.