

Date: 12/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014259/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014259/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of crimes reported which include a reference to dating apps from 2020 to current day broken down per year.***
- 2. If there is any classification of the crimes reported please provide the statistics of them broken down per year e.g. 2021-5 thefts***
- 3. Please provide the number of crimes reported with reference to dating apps broken down per year for each burrow of Greater Manchester***
- 4. The number of times a specific dating app was mentioned broken down per year e.g. 2021 - Tinder-4 I would appreciate if it could be formatted in a spreadsheet.***

Clarification - The dating apps I would like to include within the results are "Tinder" "Bumble" "Hinge" "Grindr" "Grinder" "Raya" "Eharmony" "Okcupid"

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

We do not have a searchable field that determine which offences are from dating apps, and so we have completed an initial search to provide an example of how many results fall within this request using the keywords from your clarification.

This revealed that there are over 5000 results between your dates where the crime description or crime MO description contains "Tinder", "Bumble", "Hinge", "Grindr", "Grinder", "Raya", "Eharmony", or "Okcupid", excluding cancelled crimes. However, to accurately say these all relate to dating apps would require a manual review. The reason being is, the appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request. e.g. A keyword search for

"HINGE" will return results of property damage where a door has come off its HINGEs. Or "GRINDER" may refer to a power tool or drugs paraphernalia instead of a dating app. For this reason, we cannot confidently provide the data needed for this FOI without completing a review. Due to the large total of results this request would not be able to be completed in 18hrs or less.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising to a much shorter time frame, or to request the number of times the keywords have been located. An example would be we may be able to provide the data for this request in its current form if you do not require the keywords to represent dating apps only. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.