



Date: 16/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016181/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016181/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please consider this narrowed version of my FOI request instead. I believe that with the keywords, this should now keep you under the 18-hour threshold. However, if this is still not feasible, please contact me and I will let you know which question can be scrapped. Please provide your response in a PDF format. Thanks in advance!

1) How many sexual offences or harassment offences resulting from meeting a stranger via a dating app/website were reported to your force in the past three years? Please provide one figure for reports of harassment and one for reports of sexual offences for each of the following years: 2023, 2024 and 2025.

To find these reports, please look for all those which contain at least one phrase from the following list:

Tinder, Bumble, Feeld, Grindr, Plenty of Fish, Match.com, eharmony, EliteSingles, Elite Singles, Happn, Kippo, OkCupid, OK Cupid, Facebook Dating, SilverSingles, silver singles, Parship, Original Dating, Muddy Matches, Badoo, Veggly, Christian Connection, Muzz, Muzmatch, Muzzmatch, Musmatch, and JDate.

Please also look for reports that contain the phrase 'Hinge', 'HER', 'Inner Circle', 'Salt', 'Our Time', or 'Muzz' AND one of the following words: 'Date', 'dating', 'app', 'met', 'match', 'matchmaker', 'matchmaking'.

Please only include the reports in which a sexual offence or harassment offence has been reported and you can confirm that the victim and accused met on a dating app or website.

Please also include a breakdown of how many reported offences resulted from each app or website.

3) How many of the victims in these reports were biological women? How many were biological men?

4) What were the ages of these victims? Please split them into the following brackets: Under 16, 16 to 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+.

5) Please provide me with a figure for how many of these reports resulted in charges AND, if possible, a list of the accused who went to court. From there I will get in touch with HM Courts to find out how many were convicted.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all harassment or sexual offence crimes recorded where your keywords appear to establish if the crimes occurred between people who met on those dating platforms.

A search of our records shows that there are 123 rape and sexual assault crimes, and 224 harassment crimes that include your specified keywords that would have to be manually reviewed to confirm that they are between people who met on those platforms. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 29 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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