



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_25_0423

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

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Date: 14/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0423

On 15/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

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

1. 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', '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?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm that the Constabulary's crime recording system does not have a field or tag to denote that an offence may have involved a dating app in the commission of the offence.

In order to retrieve any relevant information, I can confirm that a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 whereby any of the following offences were recorded:

a) Rape

019/07	Rape of a female aged under 16
019/08	Rape of a female aged 16 or over
019/09	Rape of a male aged under 16
019/10	Rape of a male aged 16 or over
019/11	Attempted rape of a female aged under 16
019/12	Attempted rape of a female aged 16 or over
019/13	Attempted rape of a male aged under 16
019/14	Attempted rape of a male aged 16 or over

b) Sexual assault by penetration

017/13	Assault on a male by penetration
020/03	Assault on a female by penetration

c) Sexual Assault

017/15	Sexual assault on a male
020/05	Sexual assault on a female

d) Stalking

195/94	Harassment
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e) Harassment

195/12	Pursue a course of conduct in breach of S1 (1) which amounts to stalking
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A further search was conducted on the resultant crime record MOs to ascertain if any of the following terms were present:

'online dating'
'internet dating'
'tinder'
'bumble'
'feeld'
'match.com'
'eharmony'
'dating app'
'plenty of fish'

The results are as follows:

Offences	Total Crimes	Term present in MO
a) Rape	618	8
b) Sexual Assault by penetration	63	
c) Sexual Assault	556	2
d) Stalking	1635	3
e) Harassment	114	
Total	2986	13

I can confirm that in order to answer question 2, a manual review has been conducted of the MOs of the 13 crimes that were found to have one of the specified terms listed above present in the MO. All 13 appeared to relate to the individuals meeting via a dating app.

Please note the description above of how the data has been retrieved. It is solely reliant on the specific term being present in the MO and does not take account of spelling errors. There could realistically be other crimes relevant to your request recorded that simply did not have the term included in the MO.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary