

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)[disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 619

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

Dear \*\*\*\*,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 concerning Crimes referencing dating apps.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and having consulted our Business Intelligence Unit I am now able to respond as follows.

**You wrote:**

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "Tinder" has been used? (ie where the term Tinder has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "Bumble" has been used? (ie where the term Bumble has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "Happn" has been used? (ie where the term Happn has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "Hinge" has been used? (ie where the term Hinge has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "dating app" has been used? (ie where the term dating app has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?

How many offences has your force recorded where the key term "online dating" has been used? (ie where the term online dating has been mentioned in the MO field of a crime report)? In 2017? 2018? 2019? 2020? 2021?



When providing the data, please can you specify the nature of the crime (eg. sexual assault) and whether it resulted in a charge (y/n) and whether it resulted in a conviction (y/n). Please treat each year as a calendar year from Jan-Dec, apart from 2021, could you include data for January to June.

I am aware of the limitations on your time and resources that can be applied for each FOI request. If you are able to do so within those constraints, could you also supply for each offence:

- The sex of the alleged victim
- The age of the alleged victim (This can be divided into age ranges if easier).
- Whether or not the accused had a previous conviction

**Our response:**

**Please see attached spreadsheet. To note:**

This data was obtained by completing a 'summary', or 'wildcard', search for the terms noted in your questions. This type of search will only provide results where the terms were included in the MO field of an occurrence report. These searches are not considered reliable or accurate for various reasons i.e. the term was mentioned within the occurrence report but not the MO field, the term was misspelt etc. As a result, any occurrence where the term was misspelt or mentioned within the occurrence report would not be returned in the results provided. To accurately and reliably obtain results, a manual search of each crime within the specified timeframe would need to be conducted to establish whether the occurrences are relevant to your request.

In addition to this please note we are unable answer your question relating to previous convictions – we do not hold conviction data.

No offences linked to Hinge or Happn.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Merritt  
Disclosure Decision Maker



Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.

## **Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN  
Telephone 101 ext 62005

### **Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

#### **1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

#### **2. How to Request a Review**

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit  
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,  
London Road, Devizes,  
Wiltshire,  
SN10 2DN

Email at [disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk).

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original Fol request.

#### **3. Review Procedure**

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

#### **4. Conclusion of the Appeal**

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 01625 545 700

Fax: 01625 524 510

Email: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)