



Our Ref: 004081/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 06 January 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 08/12/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

For questions one, three and five, please structure the worksheet with column headings as follows: DATING SITE, NO. OFFENCES MARCH-MAY 2020, NO. OFFENCES NOV-DEC 2020, NO. OFFENCES 2017, NO. OFFENCES 2018, NO. OFFENCES 2019.

For question two and four, please structure the worksheet with the following column headings: DATE, DATING PLATFORM, OFFENCE DESCRIPTION, OUTCOME, VICTIM AGE, VICTIM GENDER, SUSPECT AGE, SUSPECT GENDER

- 1. Between March 23 2020 and May 10 2020 inclusive, what was the total number of offences recorded involving the terms Tinder; Plenty of Fish; Ok Cupid; Hinge; Bumble; Grindr; match.com and eHarmony? Please provide a breakdown of the total number of offences for each keyword.*
- 2. For each recorded incident, please provide the following details: dating website/keyword linked to crime, offence description, victim age, victim gender and crime outcome where possible*
- 3. Between Nov 5 2020 and Dec 2 2020 inclusive, what was the total number of offences recorded involving the terms Tinder; Plenty of Fish; Ok Cupid; Hinge; Bumble; Grindr; match.com; eHarmony. As above, please also provide a breakdown of the total number of offences linked to each dating platform.*
- 4. For each recorded incident, please provide the following details: dating website/keyword linked to crime; offence description, victim age, victim gender, suspect age, suspect gender (where known) and crime outcome where possible*
- 5. For the same periods in 2017, 2018, 2019, please provide a total figure for each year for offences recorded involving the terms Tinder; Plenty of Fish; Ok Cupid; Hinge; Bumble; Grindr; match.com; eHarmony. Please breakdown by keyword/dating platform mentioned.*

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Please see attached spreadsheet containing information relating to your request.

Any further information is considered exempt by virtue of Section 30.

Application of Section 30 – Investigations

Section 30 is a class based exemption which means that I am not required to demonstrate the harm that disclosure would cause. However, I am still required to conduct a public interest test which highlights the factors for and against disclosure.

Considerations favouring disclosure

There is already a public knowledge that investigations are conducted into these types of offence by Leicestershire Police. Therefore the public would have a genuine interest in being informed of the information you have requested. It would also enable the public to see how public funds are spent in the course of operational policing.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

The information requested relates to recent months, as a result cases included in this may still be under investigation. Disclosure of information relating to live investigations may alert those committing crimes as to whether their offence is under investigation or not and may severely impact any current investigations.

I see no tangible benefit to the community at large if this information was released on this occasion.

Leicestershire Police have provided the information for questions 2 and 4 in an uncorrelated format as to provide in the information in the requested format would invoke Section 40 (2).

Section 40 (2) – Personal Information

Section 40(2) is a class based absolute exemption and as such legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no requirement to evidence this or consider the public interest test. However, as Section 40(2) is engaged and in order to make the exemption absolute we need to evidence that a data protection principle would be breached by disclosure. In this case it would not be fair to process confidential information which could lead to the identification of an individual, therefore the first principle of the Data Protection Act would be breached.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

Leicestershire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Information Manager, Leicestershire Police Headquarters, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BX.