



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-00642

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Crimes Involving Dating Apps and Social Media

Request and Answer:

Question

How many crimes have involved the dating apps Tinder, Grindr, Facebook and other social media apps in the previous three financial years? (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16)

- a) Please can you separate by financial year.
- b) Please can you separate by Tinder, Grindr, Facebook and other social media apps.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Please find a table below, provided by the PSNI Central Statistics branch, which contains the requested breakdown of the number of recorded crimes which involved the dating apps Tinder, Grindr, Facebook for the requested time period.

This response is based on incidents which resulted in a crime being recorded and where the incident report date was between the 1st April 2013 and the 31st March 2016 and where the text 'Facebook', 'Face book', 'Tinder' or 'Grindr' has been included in the call for service. Incidents where the text 'tinder' appears as part of an address e.g. Tattinderry have been excluded from the search criteria.

Financial Year	Facebook	Tinder	Grindr	TOTAL
1 st April 2013 – 31 st March 2014	511	0	0	511
1 st April 2014 – 31 st March 2015	752*	2*	0	753*
1 st April 2015 – 31 st March 2016	861	1	0	862
TOTAL	2,124*	3*	0	2,126

**One crime was recorded in 2014/15 where the related call for service included both the terms 'Facebook' and 'Tinder'. This crime is counted only once in the TOTAL categories but will appear once in each term category.*

Please Note: This information is based on data extracted from a live recording system and may be

subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.