| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0143Responded to: 24 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about Grindr the dating app in relation to crime. Please may you provide me with:**

1. **The volume of crimes recorded and validated in the last five years which included ‘Grindr’ in the MO comments. 2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25**
2. **What was the crime type for those recorded in 2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25\***

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific word/ phrase that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although the phrase appears in the MO of a crime report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the crime was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect the prevalence of the word Grindr.

Table 1 added to the bottom of this letter, provides recorded crimes featuring ‘Grindr’ within the MO field for the time period requested.

Please note caveats below the tables.

**3.      What was the outcome of the crimes recorded in 2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25\***

**\*If crime type and outcome for five years would go beyond the costs of compliance please carry on with as many years as possible within the cost of compliance starting from 2024/25 backwards.**

Home Office outcome categories do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard) and crimes are reported as recorded or detected.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Table 2 at the bottom of this letter provides you with the detected crimes featuring ‘Grindr’ within the MO field for the time period requested.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.

*Table 1: Recorded crimes/offences – featuring ‘Grindr’ within the MO field – 1st April 2019 – 27th January 2025 – inclusive broken by financial year.*

| **Crime** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threats and Extortion  | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Coercing a person into being present/ looking at sexual activity | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Activity – M (13-15)(Consensual) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cause to be Pres Sex Act/Look at Sex Image–M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Commun Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm–M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual exposure | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grooming of children for the purposes of sexual offences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Theft from a motor vehicle - not elsewhere classified | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Resisting arrest | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure to notify police\_provision of false information | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Breach of sex offender order | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Minor Assault | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Threatening or abusive behaviour | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General post office telecommunications offences | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Total** | **1** | **2** | **12** | **1** | **7** | **2** |

*Table 2: Detected crimes/ offences – featuring ‘Grindr’ within the MO field* *– 1st April 2019 – 27th January 2025 – inclusive broken by financial year.*

| **Crime Description** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cause to be Pres Sex Act/Look at Sex Image–M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Commun Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm–M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Grooming of children for the purposes of sexual offences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Resisting arrest | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure to notify police\_provision of false information | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Breach of sex offender order | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Minor Assault | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Threatening or abusive behaviour | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General post office telecommunications offences | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **0** | **0** | **5** | **1** | **4** | **1** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 27/01/2025*

*1. The Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised.*

*2. Crimes have been extracted where the keyword 'GRINDR' appears in the MO Text.*