



## **Dating Fraud Data 2021 and 2022**

Authors: [REDACTED] National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)  
Document Owner: Director, NFIB

This document consists of 9 pages. This document has been classified as **OFFICIAL**. This document should not be copied or distributed further without prior authorisation from the

**Date: 10/01/2023**

### **Introduction**

An FOI request was received by the NFIB requesting data on dating scams and scam reports where Tinder, Grindr, Hinge, Bumble, Plenty of Fish, eHarmony, and OkCupid had been referred to; the below results provide the following data:

- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud relating to dating fraud between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and the associated financial losses broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Tinder' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Grindr' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Hinge' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Bumble' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Plenty of Fish' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'eHarmony' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.
- The volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'OkCupid' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

### **Methodology**

Statistics were derived from analysis of Action Fraud crime reports and the below classified Home Office Crime Code. An explanation of each Home Office Crime Code can be found online.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Home Office Crime Codes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- NFIB1D – Dating Scam

A series of keywords were then searched against the reports to identify instances where 'Tinder', 'Grindr', 'Hinge', 'Bumble', 'Plenty of Fish', 'eHarmony', and 'OkCupid' had been referred to.

**Results**

**Reporting Volume and Financial Loss**

The below table provides the volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud relating to dating fraud between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and the associated financial losses broken down by month and financial year.

	<b>Reporting Volume</b>	<b>Financial Loss</b>
<b>2021</b>		
Jan	654	£6,383,061
Feb	736	£5,731,017
Mar	901	£8,673,883
Apr	710	£5,802,759
May	802	£14,648,934
Jun	758	£8,007,832
Jul	781	£7,284,774
Aug	785	£7,659,357
Sep	680	£7,395,043
Oct	781	£9,524,641
Nov	741	£7,061,511
Dec	660	£9,050,869
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,989</b>	<b>£97,223,680</b>
<b>2022</b>		
Jan	684	£6,431,942
Feb	671	£6,734,147
Mar	583	£6,206,637
Apr	671	£7,629,005
May	767	£6,542,243
Jun	668	£12,557,552
Jul	656	£7,581,141
Aug	662	£8,131,708
Sep		£5,466,907

**CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL**

	662	
Oct	662	£6,186,477
Nov	636	£7,390,947
Dec	616	£7,155,078
Total	7,938	£88,013,784
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,927</b>	<b>£185,237,464</b>

**Reporting Volume - Tinder**

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Tinder' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	<b>Reporting Volume</b>
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	60
Feb	54
Mar	65
Apr	52
May	63
Jun	58
Jul	70
Aug	48
Sep	48
Oct	44
Nov	38
Dec	38
Total	638
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	34
Feb	42
Mar	39
Apr	46
May	35
Jun	32
Jul	32
Aug	35
Sep	29
Oct	35
Nov	43
Dec	27
Total	429
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,067</b>

**Reporting Volume – Grindr**

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where ‘Grindr’ was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	<b>Reporting Volume</b>
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	1
Feb	2
Mar	7
Apr	3
May	2
Jun	6
Jul	5
Aug	7
Sep	2
Oct	9
Nov	5
Dec	4
Total	53
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	6
Feb	1
Mar	4
Apr	1
May	1
Jun	3
Jul	7
Aug	3
Sep	4
Oct	1
Nov	1
Dec	4
Total	36
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>89</b>

**Reporting Volume – Hinge**

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where ‘Hinge’ was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	<b>Reporting Volume</b>
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	6
Feb	11
Mar	6
Apr	5
May	6
Jun	11
Jul	4
Aug	7
Sep	9
Oct	7
Nov	8
Dec	6
Total	86
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	7
Feb	16
Mar	9
Apr	7
May	15
Jun	9
Jul	9
Aug	15
Sep	11
Oct	14
Nov	11
Dec	13
Total	136
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>222</b>

**Reporting Volume – Bumble**

## CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Bumble' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	Reporting Volume
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	2
Feb	3
Mar	2
Apr	1
May	4
Jun	5
Jul	4
Sep	4
Oct	3
Nov	8
Dec	2
Total	38
<b>2022</b>	
Feb	6
Mar	2
Apr	2
May	8
Jun	6
Jul	5
Aug	8
Sep	4
Oct	5
Nov	7
Dec	8
Total	61
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99</b>

Reporting Volume – Plenty of Fish



## CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'Plenty of Fish' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	Reporting Volume
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	18
Feb	12
Mar	28
Apr	20
May	21
Jun	21
Jul	21
Aug	19
Sep	15
Oct	11
Nov	16
Dec	18
Total	220
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	16
Feb	19
Mar	21
Apr	17
May	18
Jun	14
Jul	19
Aug	19
Sep	10
Oct	17
Nov	21
Dec	12
Total	203
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>423</b>

Reporting Volume - eHarmony

## CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'eHarmony' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	Reporting Volume
<b>2021</b>	
Mar	1
Jul	1
Oct	1
Nov	3
Dec	1
Total	7
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	1
Feb	1
Aug	1
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	3
Total	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### Reporting Volume - OkCupid

The below tables provide volume of crime reports made to Action Fraud where 'OkCupid' was referred to between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2022 broken down by month and financial year.

	Reporting Volume
<b>2021</b>	
Jan	2
Feb	1
Mar	1
Apr	3
May	3
Jul	2
Aug	1
Sep	1
Nov	2
Dec	2
Total	18
<b>2022</b>	
Jan	1
Feb	5
Mar	3
Apr	4
May	1
Jun	1
Jul	1
Total	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>

## **Caveats**

- Action Fraud is a self-reporting tool; information provided within Action Fraud reports may not have been verified by law enforcement or interrogated for authenticity or accuracy and may be subject to discrepancies.
- There is no formal agreement with Scotland to report to Action Fraud and Action Fraud data is not a full representation of the level of fraud in Scotland. Police Scotland remain responsible for the gathering and enforcement of fraudulent activity affecting Scottish victims.
- Underreporting to Action Fraud may affect the extent and loss, as it may not be a true value of the fraud that is occurring nationally. Action Fraud is based on victim reporting and reports have not been verified.
- The Action Fraud reporting system is a live reporting system. Reports can be updated by the reporting person or other administrators as necessary; loss amounts, details and fraud classifications can change on occasion throughout the life of a report. For consistency, and to enable an accurate temporal dataset for reporting volumes, the original version of a report has been extracted from the system for use in this dataset. This dataset is accurate as of the time it was extracted.
- The inclusion of the relevant crime reports is reliant on the information provided in the 'Additional Information' section of the report provided by the reporting person. Only those containing the specific search terms identified above within the body of the report are included; any reports that contain misspellings or differing formats of the defined keywords will not have been captured.
- Whilst defined keywords have been used to identify crime reports relating to where 'Tinder', 'Grindr', 'Hinge', 'Bumble', 'Plenty of Fish', 'eHarmony', and 'OkCupid', it is possible that the resulting data set from this methodology may include some reports that do not relate directly to this fraud. If fraud reports have been recorded using other terminology or spelling than the defined search terms used, then it is possible that some reports relating to this search fraud may not have been captured.
- Reports have been captured by date of initial reporting to Action Fraud. This date is consistently used across NFIB data analysis, as it is a consistently populated data field, and is automatically generated by the system. Any other date fields are liable to inaccurate data entry, or of not being populated at all by the reporting person.