Report Fraud Romance Fraud Reporting by Victim Gender and Age

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to supply data for the Freedom of Information request FOI2026/02015.

The primary data provided is for Calendar Year (CY) 2019 to CY 2025. for Home Office Crime Code 'NFIB1D Dating Scam' and taken from crime reports submitted to Report Fraud. Reporting volumes of gender and age groups are provided.

As there is not a specific crime code for Romance Fraud (RF), the figures quoted are based on search results for the Home Office Crime Code 'NFIB1D'.

City of London Police's Report Fraud Intelligence Development Team (IDT) defines Romance Fraud as follows:

'*Romance fraud or dating scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas. Criminals will often build a relationship with their victims over time*.'

This code does not give a completely accurate picture of RF numbers as it includes crimes such as 'Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion' (FMSE) which do not fit the RF definition and cannot be separated from RF reports.

FMSE is a type of online blackmail where criminals threaten to share sexual or intimate pictures or videos of the victim, unless paid money.

Results

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	256	132	0	0	39	427
25-34	336	345	2	0	73	756
35-44	315	610	7	0	88	1020
45-54	341	975	1	0	121	1438
55-64	327	782	1	0	147	1257
65+	382	572	0	0	172	1126
N/K	18	44	0	0	60	122
Total	1975	3460	11	0	700	6146

Figure 1: NFIB1D reports from CY2019 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	387	185	3	0	47	622
25-34	440	454	0	0	80	974
35-44	387	782	1	0	95	1265
45-54	405	969	1	0	128	1503
55-64	439	833	0	0	129	1401
65+	440	598	0	0	144	1182
N/K	27	45	0	0	59	131
Total	2525	3866	5	0	682	7078

Figure 2: NFIB1D reports from CY2020 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	649	252	5	0	86	992
25-34	716	551	5	0	171	1443
35-44	525	859	3	0	181	1568
45-54	517	1116	3	0	186	1822
55-64	584	891	2	0	212	1689
65+	615	785	2	0	243	1645
N/K	41	36	0	0	77	154
Total	3647	4490	20	0	1156	9313

Figure 3: NFIB1D reports from CY2021 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	851	251	2	0	91	1195
25-34	767	495	4	0	124	1390
35-44	514	721	4	0	116	1355
45-54	482	841	3	0	159	1485
55-64	510	693	2	0	184	1389
65+	643	638	2	0	193	1476
N/K	42	35	1	0	46	124
Total	3809	3674	18	0	913	8414

Figure 4: NFIB1D reports from CY2022 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	1037	230	2	0	132	1401
25-34	770	411	5	0	152	1338
35-44	496	640	3	0	131	1270
45-54	472	682	1	0	175	1330
55-64	540	723	1	0	207	1471
65+	743	751	1	0	301	1796
N/K	32	30	0	0	66	128
Total	4090	3467	13	0	1164	8734

Figure 5: NFIB1D reports from CY2023 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	756	193	2	0	105	1056
25-34	772	405	5	0	190	1372
35-44	517	617	3	0	185	1322
45-54	498	602	1	0	243	1344
55-64	609	590	2	0	297	1498
65+	919	920	1	0	414	2254
N/K	24	56	0	0	68	148
Total	4095	3383	14	0	1502	8994

Figure 6: NFIB1D reports from CY2024 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Age Range	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/K	Total
Under 25	998	221	3	0	169	1391
25-34	1125	465	3	0	251	1844
35-44	631	629	5	1	267	1533
45-54	613	746	0	0	304	1663
55-64	714	718	3	1	395	1831
65+	1168	1116	1	0	754	3039
N/K	81	60	0	0	105	246
Total	5330	3955	15	2	2245	11547

Figure 7: NFIB1D reports from CY2025 with breakdown of age group and gender.

Caveats

Report Fraud reporting is a self-reporting tool; information provided within Report 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 Report Fraud. Police Scotland remain responsible for the gathering and enforcement of fraudulent activity affecting Scottish victims. Reports from international victims (including Scotland) have been included within this document.

The victim's local police force is assigned using postcode data; however, minor discrepancies may arise where postcode and police force boundaries do not align.

Underreporting to Report Fraud and omissions of data when reporting to Report Fraud may affect the extent and quality of reporting and may not be a true reflection of what is occurring nationally.

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Any financial losses are rounded to the nearest whole GBP.