# London police seek potential victims after HIV-positive rapist's 17-year sentence



Jonathan Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison in June after being convicted of rape and the reckless transmission of HIV, following an investigation by London’s Metropolitan Police. Authorities have revealed that Carl, described as a "predatory individual," made contact with approximately 400 men through dating apps such as Grindr and Scruff over a four-year period between 2019 and 2023. The police are now urgently seeking to identify and reach up to 318 men who may have had sexual contact with Carl and potentially been exposed to HIV.

The investigation was initially prompted when a man reported waking up to finding himself raped after having met Carl socially. Since then, detectives have identified 82 men who had encounters with Carl, some of whom have tested positive for HIV. However, the police believe that many more victims have yet to come forward, warning particularly of a "significant number of very vulnerable individuals" who could be survivors of rape. According to Detective Superintendent Lewis Basford, Carl targeted men who were often vulnerable, including those uncertain about their sexuality or experiencing their first sexual contact. Acting Detective Chief Inspector Sarah Bishop emphasised the difficulty in assessing the full scale of Carl’s offences but confirmed he was prolific, at times meeting "three or four people a day."

Carl, a former hairdresser living in Hornchurch, primarily met people in his local area of east London and Essex, including the boroughs of Havering, Redbridge, and Barking and Dagenham. The court described him as someone "only interested in his own sexual desires." In addition to his prison sentence, Carl was served with a 15-year sexual prevention order requiring him to notify police within three days of having a new sexual partner and to disclose his HIV status if he is not adhering to medication.

The Metropolitan Police are appealing for potential victims to come forward for confidential testing and support. Detectives highlighted the urgent need for these men to be identified and tested to prevent further harm and to provide appropriate medical care and counselling where needed. This case underlines the dangers posed by predatory individuals exploiting dating apps, especially those targeting vulnerable populations.

This investigation comes amid broader concerns about exploitation and abuse on dating platforms, with previous cases highlighting the challenges police face in monitoring and preventing such crimes. The police’s ongoing efforts reflect an increasing focus on protecting vulnerable users of these apps from predatory behaviour and ensuring swift justice and support when offences occur.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed), [[2]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/clyd44903j0o), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html), [[6]](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed), [[2]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/clyd44903j0o), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html), [[6]](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed), [[2]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/clyd44903j0o), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html), [[6]](https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2111038/london-police-seek-318-men-after-rapist-jailed> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/clyd44903j0o> - Jonathan Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison after being found guilty of rape and reckless transmission of HIV. The Metropolitan Police's investigation revealed that Carl had made over 400 digital contacts with men aged between 17 and 60 on dating apps such as Grindr and Scruff over a four-year period. Detectives are concerned that there may be hundreds more victims and are urging them to come forward for testing and support. The investigation began after two men reported similar experiences of being raped after meeting Carl socially.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062> - Jonathan Carl, 42, was jailed for 17 years after being convicted of rape and reckless transmission of HIV. The Metropolitan Police believes Carl, who used multiple dating apps including Grindr and Scruff, had sexual contact with up to 400 men between 2019 and 2023. Of those, detectives have spoken to 82 men, with some testing positive for HIV. They believe up to 318 others need to be identified and tested. Police are urging potential victims to come forward for confidential testing and support.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/predatory-rapist-could-have-given-hiv-to-hundreds-of-men-as-police-launch-appeal-13434062> - Jonathan Carl, 42, was jailed for 17 years after being convicted of rape and reckless transmission of HIV. The Metropolitan Police believes Carl, who used multiple dating apps including Grindr and Scruff, had sexual contact with up to 400 men between 2019 and 2023. Of those, detectives have spoken to 82 men, with some testing positive for HIV. They believe up to 318 others need to be identified and tested. Police are urging potential victims to come forward for confidential testing and support.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-appeal-jonathan-carl-rapist-hornchurch-victims-hiv-std-b1248658.html> - Jonathan Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison after being convicted of rape and reckless transmission of HIV. The Metropolitan Police's investigation began after a man reported being raped after meeting Carl socially. Detectives believe Carl made around 400 digital contacts through dating apps Grindr and Scruff between 2019 and 2023. Police have identified 82 men who had sexual contact with Carl, some of whom have tested positive for HIV. They are urging other potential victims to come forward for testing and support.
6. <https://courtnewsuk.co.uk/depraved-hairdresser-may-have-claimed-400-victims/> - Jonathan Carl, 42, was sentenced to 17 years in prison after being convicted of rape and reckless transmission of HIV. The Metropolitan Police's investigation revealed that Carl had made over 400 digital contacts with men aged between 17 and 60 on dating apps such as Grindr and Scruff over a four-year period. Detectives are concerned that there may be hundreds more victims and are urging them to come forward for testing and support. The investigation began after two men reported similar experiences of being raped after meeting Carl socially.
7. <https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/15910233.essex-police-officer-spared-jail-grooming-15-year-old-boy-grindr/> - Detective Constable Jonathan Davies-Brewin, 50, was spared jail after attempting to meet a 15-year-old boy he had been grooming on Grindr. The officer, who used the name 'Older4Youngerx' on the app, arranged to meet the boy in a Tesco car park, bringing sex toys and condoms. He was arrested by colleagues and admitted to the offence, stating that his arrest was 'long overdue'. Davies-Brewin was given a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and was placed on the sex offenders register for ten years.