

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

May 3, 2018

Carolyn Bjork
via the FOI website

Dear Carolyn Bjork,

regarding your Freedom of Information request titled "slut" we collected the following information:

Slut is generally a term for a woman or girl who is considered to have loose sexual morals or who is sexually promiscuous. It is usually used as an insult, sexual slur or offensive term of disparagement (slut shaming). It originally meant "a dirty, slovenly woman", and is rarely used to refer to men, generally requiring clarification by use of the terms male slut or man whore. The first recorded use of the word was in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. Chaucer wrote, "Why is thy lord so sluttish, I thee pray, And is of power better clothes to bey." He is referring to the man's untidy appearance. There have been attempts to reclaim the word for girls and women, and some individuals embrace the title as a source of pride. A chiefly British variant of slut is slag, and a primarily North American one is skank; both also imply low social class.

Sincerely,

John Smith
FOI Manager