



Date: 09/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014578/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014578/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request some information from your police force.

This is in relation to 'cuckooing' which the government describes as a highly exploitative practice where criminals seize control of a vulnerable person's home without consent to conduct illegal criminal activities.

I would like to request the following information:

How many reports of cuckooing have you had within the financial year of

- (a) 2019-20*
- (b) 2020-21*
- (c) 2021-22*
- (d) 2022-23*
- (e) 2023-24*
- (f) 2024-25*

How many of these reports of cuckooing included people with disabilities in the financial year of

- (a) 2019-20*
- (b) 2020-21*
- (c) 2021-22*
- (d) 2022-23*
- (e) 2023-24*
- (f) 2024-25*

What is the gender breakdown of the victims of cuckooing across the financial year of

- (a) 2019-20*
- (b) 2020-21*
- (c) 2021-22*
- (d) 2022-23*
- (e) 2023-24*
- (f) 2024-25*

If you are able to provide the average age of victims in each financial year, I would be interested in that too.

Ideally, I would like this information in spreadsheet or PDF format but will accept an alternative format if necessary.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Currently, there is no specific offence of "Cuckooing". Cuckooing crosses several thematic areas and crime types, so the only way to possibly provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes recorded by GMP between 2019 and 2025 too check if any potential cuckooing is noted.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

[Cuckooing is set to become a criminal offence in its own right under the proposed Crime and Policing Bill](#). However, this has not yet made its way through parliament and into law. When this law comes into effect, it will become easier to provide information relating to cuckooing offences. Unfortunately, at present it would not be possible within the cost and time limit provided in the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk