

Date: 23/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016223/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016223/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How many cases of cuckooing have your force dealt with broken down by the following financial years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

I note that there is no specific Home Office code for “cuckooing”. However, this data is recorded by some forces including the largest force in the UK. It is also worth noting that in the past forces have searched in Modern Slavery Enquiries for links to potential cuckooing and have been able to find the information within cost.

If 2015-2025 takes me over the cost limit, please send as many as possible with priority being the most recent years of data.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information 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 2015 and 2025. This amounts to over 3million records that would need to be trawled through and as such would exceed 18hrs to complete.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame of real significance, and it may also help to provide the HO offence that you feel fits best and we then may be able to complete a keyword search, with words supplied by yourself. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

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