



Date: 19/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017525/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017525/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request. I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request data regarding "cuckooing" (the criminal takeover of a vulnerable person's home) within the Greater Manchester Police force area.

Please provide the following information broken down by calendar year for 2023, 2024, and 2026 (to the current date):

Does Greater Manchester Police utilise a specific administrative database marker, intelligence flag, or tag for "cuckooing" or "home takeover" within your crime recording systems? How many incidents, live cases, or intelligence logs involving suspected cuckooing were recorded or flagged by GMP in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026?

If no specific flag is available, how many multi-agency safeguarding interventions or disruptions (e.g., via Operation Challenger or County Lines operations) were recorded against addresses identified as vulnerable to cuckooing?

How many arrests or charges were recorded by GMP where cuckooing was identified as a contributing factor, primary element, or connected offence (e.g., alongside modern slavery or drug supply charges)?

I am mindful of the statutory cost limit under Section 12. If retrieving the full dataset risks exceeding this limit, please prioritise questions 1 and 2, or contact me directly to discuss how I can narrow the scope of this inquiry.

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. To provide the data requested in question 2 would involve a manual search of all incidents, crimes and intelligence records to establish if the record is relevant to your request.

It is anticipated would take approximately several weeks hours to ascertain the data required. 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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. 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.

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