



Response Date:19/08/2024

2024/709 - Cuckooing

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please could you provide me with the following figures for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (January - end of June 2024). (If you do not collect or cannot provide data for one of the categories below, please provide data for the categories that you do or can provide data for):

How many people has the force identified as victims of 'cuckooing' i.e. the practice of taking over the home of an individual in order to establish a base for the purpose of criminal activity?

Of those people identified as victims of cuckooing how many were:

- a. Male
- a. Female
- a. Under 18 years of age
- a. Over 65 years of age
- a. Dependant on drugs or alcohol
- a. Disabled or learning disabled
- a. Unemployed
- a. Diagnosed with a mental illness
- a. Specify the reason behind the cuckooing (e.g. drug dealing, sex work, taking over the property as a place to live, financial abuse, supplying arms)

Of those people identified as victims of cuckooing how many have been:

- a. Arrested, and
- a. Charged with criminal offences related to the activities taking place in their property (specify what they were charged with)

How many people has the force identified as perpetrators of 'cuckooing'?

Of those identified as perpetrators of 'cuckooing' how many have been

a. Arrested, and

a. Charged with criminal offences related to the cuckooing activity? (specify what they were charged with)

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. 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 retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

We have identified the following data using the 'NWPCL – possible victim of cuckooing' flag.

Victims of cuckooing	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Jun)
Total	45	28	20
Male	24	24	13
Female	21	4	7
Aged under 18	0	0	0
Aged 65+	2	3	1
Drugs marker	35	23	18
Mental disorder marker	27	18	13

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 06/08/2024