



Response Date: 24/03/2025

2025/309 - Cuckooing

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

With cuckooing ("exercising control over another person's dwelling without their consent to enable the dwelling to be used in connection with the commission of specified criminal activity") set to become a crime under the new Crime and Policing Bill, I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I'm specifically seeking any data you have on:

1. The total number of cuckooing cases reported to your authority between January 2020 and December 2024. The total number of confirmed cases of cuckooing within the same timeframe 3. The number of cuckooing cases investigated or taken further by your authority 4. The number of arrests connected to 'county lines' drug offences within the same timeframe

If possible, I would appreciate the data being presented as a month-by-month breakdown for each year in question (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024).

It would also be helpful for the data to be split by towns/areas in a separate table.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. Most cuckooing jobs are self-generated and don't result in an investigation. These aren't recorded as a specific occurrence/crime type on our system and are managed locally. The way in which they are managed has also changed over the years and so we wouldn't be able to provide accurate reporting on this. In addition, we would be unable to give numbers for County Lines arrests because it isn't a specific crime type so we wouldn't be able to distinguish them, some might be Drugs Related occurrences, others might be overnight arrests etc. But ultimately, we would have to go through every PWITS investigation during the period and identify which are County Lines related and which are committed via a different model. 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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 21/03/2025