



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0063

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0063

On 15/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information in relation to 'cuckooing' also known as forced home invasion which is described in Home Office guidance as "a tactic used by criminals, typically drug dealers, to take over the homes of vulnerable individuals, such as care leavers or those with addiction, physical or mental health issues, and use the property as a base for criminal activity. This is a common characteristic of the county lines business model and can occur in a range of settings such as rental and private properties, student accommodation, prisons, and commercial properties". [1]

Please provide me with the following information:

1. Does your police force have a marker or flag for cuckooing in your crime recording database?
2. How many live cases involving cuckooing is your police force currently responding to or investigating? (as at the date of responding to this request - please provide that date in the response)
3. How many cuckooed properties did your police force visit in the period July to December 2023 inclusive?

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I am unable to confirm if Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically searching for the information you have requested.

The Constabulary's Crime Record System does not have a marker/flag for cuckooing.

As such, in order to ascertain what information may or may not be held relating to cuckooing would require a manual review of all crimes and intelligence on the system for the time period requested. Such a manual review would clearly involve thousands of records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary