



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0285
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 09/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0285

On 11/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

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. If providing a full month-by-month breakdown or a separate table would exceed cost or time limits, I would be happy to discuss ways to refine my request. Please let me know how I may adjust it to ensure that it falls within the cost limits of the Act.

If you require any clarification regarding this request, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am happy to provide any additional details necessary to facilitate the processing of this request.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request and provide an estimated timeframe for your response.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary may hold 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